AUTO BAILOUT NEEDS PLAN FOR VOTE, PG 10

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Celebrity Buzz

Is Anne Hathaway 'addicted to losers?'

pg 30

NDP oppose Tory health-board picks

COMMITTEE Health Minister Ron Liepert has handpicked a 15-member board that is expected to reshape health care across the province, but NDP Leader Brian Mason says all the appointees are Tory friends in the private sector.

Mason says one of the new members, Tony Franceschini, heads up Stantec Inc., which has multiple contracts with the health-care system, including the new Grande Prairie Regional Health Facility.

Mason says this appointment is "fraught with major conflicts of interest."

"There is no conflict of interest," said Health Minister Ron Liepert in the Legislature yesterday. "(He) is one of the preeminent leaders in this city."

The new board will report directly to the health minister that includes 13 members from Alberta, one from Ontario, and one member from the United States.

JEFF CUMMINGS/METRO CANADA

ShareYourViews
calgaryletters@metronews.ca

Music pg 26

Bond theme songs through the ages

Sports pg 18

Why Marty's betting on the Stamps

Fender Guitar Calling

ROBIN KUNISKI/FOR METRO CALGARY

Mike Matthews of Heavy Industries puts the final touches on the installation of a massive 35-foot Fender Strat guitar replica on top of the new home of Guitar Works on Macleod Trail yesterday.

Final tally: 18.1%

Lengthy deliberation produces property-tax agreement

NEIL MACKINNON
neil.mackinnon@metronews.ca

It took more than 50 hours and about 200 recorded votes, but Calgary's property-tax rate was finalized last night.

In an 11-4 vote, city council approved a three-year, 18.1 per cent property tax increase, down from an initially proposed 23.3 per cent.

The 2009 rate was cut from a proposed 9.6 per cent to 5.3 per cent, while 2010 will see another 6.1 per cent hike and 2011 will add another 6.7 per cent, bringing the overall increase to a "reasonably palatable" level, said mayor Dave Bronconnier.

"It responds to a majority of Calgarian's needs," said Bronconnier, adding the city was fortunate to be in the position it is as cities across the country have to slash jobs and carve spending drastically to stay afloat given the increasingly worsening economic picture.

By 2011, the average property owner will pay an additional $195.62.

35 Million: Approximate reduction in the City of Calgary's 2009-11 budget, resulting in a cumulative drop of 5.2 per cent in proposed property taxes, approved by city hall.

"We whittled and whittled and whittled," said Ald. John Mar. "Then we took out the axe."

Actually, a good chunk of the property-tax rate cuts came from financial shuffling, as the city increased its Enmax dividends by $8 million and decreased its capital building Pay As You Go funding by $5 million and removing $15 million worth of EMS funding as the province will take over in April to facilitate lower levels of taxation.

The city also hacked $15 million in overtime budgets yesterday, which took about two per cent out of the increase, and aldermanic ward budgets were sliced by $140,000, in what was mostly a symbolic move initiated by Ald. Brian Pincott.

Christmas parking crackdown

KRISTA SYLVESTER
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FINES Busy Christmas shoppers might want to think twice before parking in that disabled parking space.

The Calgary Parking Authority is cracking down on motorists who are illegally using the reserved spots for the disabled, especially over Christmas.

"So serious is the abuse that we're proposing to increase the fine up to $300." Dale Fraser, parking manager

"People get busy during the holidays and have a lot of things to do and not a lot of time to do it, but they don't realize the impact of parking in disabled spots," parking manager Dale Fraser said.

Janette Jones drives her disabled mother around shopping and says she usually doesn't find a spot right away and sometimes, there aren't disabled signs displayed on the offending car.

"We've actually just decided to try and stay away from Christmas shopping over the busy season," she added.

The fine for parking illegally in a disabled spot is $150 but it's about to get a lot steeper – possibly another $150 steeper.

"Calgarians are not getting the message and so serious is the abuse that we're proposing to increase the fine up to $300," Fraser said.

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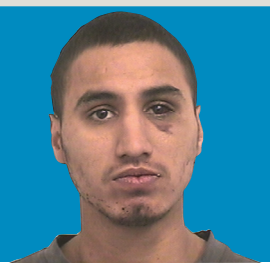
Free Daily News Group Inc., operating as Metro Calgary. 120, 3030 - 3 Avenue NE, Calgary, Alberta T2A 6T7. Publisher: Steve Shrout

Bomb scare in SE parking lot
City cops responded to a bomb scare yesterday afternoon after a suspicious package was left in a parking lot in the 5100 block of 20th Avenue SE. The Tactical Team removed the package and people were allowed back into the area. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Local



Suspect sought

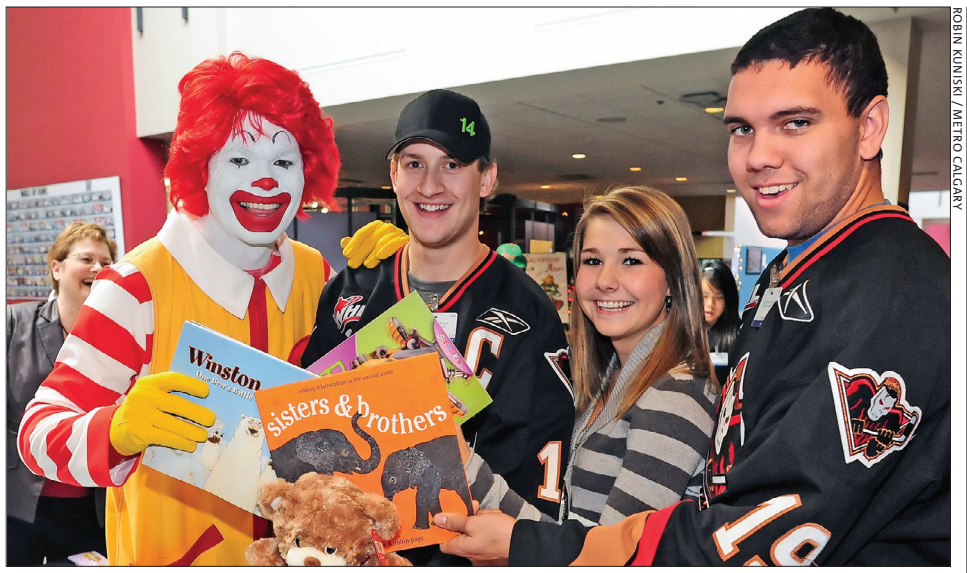
City cops have issued a warrant for a man wanted in connection with an aggravated assault Wednesday night that sent a woman to hospital with life-threatening injuries. Merle Kahnapace, 28, of Calgary is being sought in connection. METRO CALGARY

News in brief

SCIENCE While being cheered on by 500 Calgary Grade 8 students, five teams of science teachers will be competing in the Iron Science competition today. The regional winners are now battling for the national title at MacEwan Hall at the University of Calgary from 10:30 a.m. until noon.

GIFTS Operation Christmas Child is set to kick off for the 13th year in a row this morning when 40 off-duty ambulances will be picking up 10,000 shoe gift boxes from 40 Calgary-area schools. The shoe boxes are filled with small gifts for underprivileged children in other parts of the world.

BUSINESS The Calgary Economic Development (CED) and Talent Pool Development Society of Alberta Employment and Immigration launched Career Connect yesterday, a unique tool to connect employers and immigrants to employment resources in Calgary. For more information visit www.calgaryeconomicdevelopment.com. METRO CALGARY



ROBIN KUNISKI / METRO CALGARY

From left: Ronald McDonald, Calgary Hitmen captain Carson McMillan, Chloe Bogner, 17, volunteer from John Diefenbaker High School, and Calgary Hitmen Ian Schultz, stuff 1,000 bags at Flextronics for the Book Bags for Kids.

The gift of reading

KRISTA SYLVESTER
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A little bit of reading can go a long way.

That's why the Calgary Board of Education and their partners rolled up their sleeves yesterday for the eighth annual Book Bag for Kids program.

"Giving this gift of books inspires children to read and engages their families in reading opportunities," CBE's Leah Milner said.

Volunteers, including two Calgary Hitmen hockey players and students from John G. Diefenbaker High School's leadership program, stuffed 1,000 bags with books worth $50 to $60 for underprivileged children across Calgary's schools.

"I grew up reading and it was always a way to get some imagination out of life, and it's good to be able to pass that on to other children," said Chloe Bogner, the Grade 12 president of student council.

Hitmen player Ian Schultz said he was glad to be a part of a cause that gives back to the community.

"I try to do as much as I can because I know not all kids are as fortunate as some and it's nice to be able to put a smile on their faces," he said.

Slain dad's blood found on knife, courtroom hears

MURDER A courtroom heard evidence yesterday that a knife found in the truck of accused killer Jeremy Steinke had the blood of one of the victims on it.

Robert Schimpf, an Edmonton-based RCMP forensic lab expert, testified the blood on the knife found in the truck was a "one-in-170-trillion match" to the slain father.

The expert also testified that two knives found inside the house had the eight-year-old boy's blood on one of the blades and the dad's blood on the other.

Steinke is accused of killing a Medicine Hat family in 2006. METRO CALGARY

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Police detain Robert Rouzault
After releasing warrants for his arrest just yesterday, police detained 58-year-old Robert Rouzault last night and charged him with six counts of financial robbery. METRO CALGARY

Bus company scrutinized as child left behind on vehicle

VICTORIA HANDYSIDES
Metro Canada

SCHOOL A forgotten three-year-old child on a school bus could be the third strike for a local bus company, Edmonton Catholic School Board officials said yesterday.

Leigh Lamb was on her way to a multicultural preschool program Wednesday morning, and fell asleep somewhere along the way.

When the driver counted heads of the six children getting off the bus, the girl was overlooked and marked absent.

Three hours later, the driver noticed the child was sleeping on the bus.

After realizing her mistake, the bus driver quietly resigned yesterday.

This is the third incident in under a year that has risen from employees at R.L. Smith Transportation, one of the Catholic school board's five carriers.

"We have some very serious concerns with R.L. Smith, and the way they have handled this incident and others," said ECS spokeswoman Lori Nagy.

In May, a bus driver was accused of touching a child inappropriately. In September, a memory stick containing the addresses and phone numbers of 560 students was stolen from their driver.

kids

- The company also brings 300 special-needs Catholic school children to classes each day.

Guide Dogs offering virtual pets

GIFTS Alberta Dog Guide Services has a unique gift idea for Calgarians to give a "virtual" dog by sponsoring a guide dog puppy in someone's name.

The donor will get two years of pictures and letters from their dog and owner — and hey, you don't have to walk it! For more information please visit www.albertaguidedog.com. METRO CALGARY

Giving back to veterans

Second annual food drive to honour troops

KRISTA SYLVESTER
krista.sylvester@metronews.ca

They fought for our freedom, and Calgarians gave back many thanks as the second annual Veterans and Seniors Food Drive came to a close.

"I think people are really starting to realize what the veterans did for our freedom, especially with troops abroad, and they want to show their support," Event Group president David Howard said.

Howard was extremely pleased with the success of the food and necessity drive and estimates over $200,000 was raised in food, and $70,000 in cash.

"We noticed maybe because of the economy that individuals gave less, but more people stepped up to donate and we couldn't be happier."

George Bittman, chairman of the Calgary Poppy Fund, said the veterans are not only thankful for the food they receive but the visible support from Calgarians.

"It's very heartwarming to them when they receive these gifts and they go a long way in helping the veterans live comfortably," Bittman added.

Between Oct 14. and Nov. 20 Calgarians were encouraged to support the veterans and seniors by dropping off food items to the Crown Surplus store.

ROBIN KUNISKI / METRO CALGARY

David Howard, left, president of The Event Group and co-founder of the Veterans and Seniors Food Drive, George Bittman of the Calgary Poppy Fund, and John Cumming, general manager of Crown Surplus, gather at the Calgary Poppy Fund to help pack up thousands of dollars in food donations from Calgarians.

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Conrad Black appeals to Bush for help

Deposed media baron Conrad Black is hoping George W. Bush will grant him clemency during the U.S. president's final weeks in office. The Department of Justice in Washington has confirmed that Montreal-born Black requested that his 6½-year sentence be commuted. **CBC NEWS ONLINE**

Canada

"This is who I am and yeah, I've got some scars."

Liberal leadership candidate Bob Rae talking about his time in office as the Ontario leader of the NDP.

Liberal poll

An Angus Reid poll shows Michael Ignatieff enjoys a slight lead over Rae as the candidate that would bring the Liberal party the most votes in a federal election. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Tories project coming deficit

The Canadian government will run a budget deficit for the first time in over a decade as the economy slides into a mild recession, the new parliamentary budget officer predicted yesterday.

The gloomy outlook provided by Kevin Page, the budget officer, provided ammunition for the Liberals, who accused Prime Minister Stephen Harper of irresponsible spending and poor economic stewardship.

John McCallum

"The most interesting point was the statement in black and white that this deficit is not because of a global economic situation, but its entirely because of actions taken by the Harper government," said Liberal legislator John McCallum.

"It's a made-in-Canada Stephen Harper deficit," he said.

Based on the average forecast of private sector economists, the report forecasts a deficit of $3.9 billion in the 2009-10 fiscal year, starting April 1, a deficit of $1.4 billion in 2010-11, followed by small surpluses in the next two years. Page is predicting deficits of between $12 billion and $14 billion in each of the next four years.

REUTERS

Washington **Auto bailout**

JIM BOURG/REUTERS

Industry Minister Tony Clement, right, speaks to the media about the auto industry with Ontario Economic Development Minister Michael Bryant in front of the U.S. Capitol in Washington, yesterday. Clement spent the day meeting with officials in Washington about government bailouts for automakers.

Parti Québécois pushing for new language laws

QUEBEC Separatist Parti Québécois leader Pauline Marois wants to introduce a newer, stronger version of Quebec's controversial language law, Bill 101.

Yesterday, in an attempt to rally the party's sovereignist base — some of whom are frustrated that the leader has put sovereignty on the backburner — Marois proposed that Quebec adopt a new Bill 101, put in place by her party in 1977. The new law would require smaller businesses with up to 50 employees be able to operate in French. Currently only those with more than 50 employees are subject to the law. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Election

- The Liberals hold a significant lead over the Parti Québécois in the run up to their Dec. 8 provincial election.

News in brief

SPENDING Imagine Canada said yesterday it has drafted a letter to Prime Minister Stephen Harper ahead of next week's economic statement asking the government not to slash charitable funding.

KILLING Canada will keep pressing Saudi Arabia to not execute Canadian, Mohamed Kohail, 23, who has been sentenced to death by beheading for a killing, the foreign ministry said yesterday. REUTERS

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Investigation underway into death of conjoined twins

Halifax officials have said they are investigating what happened to conjoined baby girls who died while aboard a flight travelling to New York, where they were seeking medical treatment. Officials are awaiting an autopsy. METRO NEWS SERVICES

PM pressured to increase infrastructure funds

Prime Minister Stephen Harper is keen to see "short-term" results as the federal government prepares to ramp up infrastructure spending across the country.

Officials with the Federation of Canadian Municipalities say that's the message Harper delivered during an hour-long meeting yesterday afternoon.

As economic woes worsen, the federal Conservatives have made infrastructure spending a priority and say they want to move quickly to get projects going across the country.

The officials made the case that a $3 billion investment by Ottawa would put almost 100,000 people to work at a critical time when the downturn is threatening jobs.

Stephen Harper

Yesterday marked the first time since 2006 that Harper has met with the municipal federation and the association's officials took it as a signal that the prime minister wants progress on the file.

Also present at the meeting were Finance Minister Jim Flaherty, Transport Minister John Baird, who has responsibility for infrastructure, and Inter-governmental Affairs Minister Josée Verner.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

No to pothole fixing

- Going into the meeting, Flaherty said the government is looking at ways of speeding up projects, perhaps by streamlining environmental assessments that can cause delays. Flaherty has said in the past that the government "is not in the business of fixing potholes."

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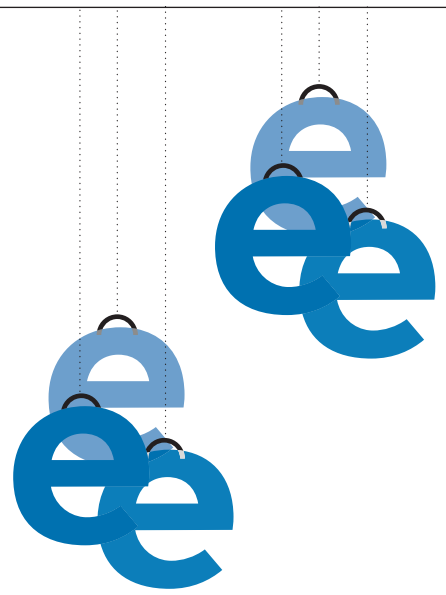

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Shanghai tower named year's best skyscraper

The Shanghai World Financial Center, the world's second-tallest building that some say resembles an elegant bottle opener, was named yesterday by architects as the best skyscraper completed this year. REUTERS

World

Jewel sets record

A large Kashmir sapphire ring set a world record at auction yesterday, fetching nearly $3.5 million US, but half of the jewels on offer failed to sell in a market shaken by the financial crisis, Christie's said. REUTERS

Auto bailout vote delayed

Wall Street was hostage to the rapidly changing news of a possible rescue for the U.S. auto industry, with the stock market rising on news of a tentative bipartisan deal in Congress for a $25-billion US package for Detroit and then falling to new lows when the deal ran into trouble.

Automakers held out hope. After the end of the trading day, the White House announced it could back a compromise plan pushed by Michigan senators to help by using $25 billion in Energy Department loans for greener cars, and urged Congress to act quickly.

U.S. automakers said they will meet Democratic demands to offer a plan to return to profitability, and lawmakers said it could be considered the week of Dec. 8.

In more bad news for the battered U.S. economy, the number of U.S. workers on jobless rolls surged to the highest in a quarter century, prompting Congress to extend benefits for the long-term unemployed.

A government report showed the number of workers filing new claims for jobless benefits last week surged to the highest in 16 years. More than 4 million Americans received jobless benefits in the week ended Nov. 8, the highest since December 1982.

Leading economies will likely be in recession for around a year, a poll of economists showed. REUTERS

Low crude prices a mixed blessing

- In what would normally be a good sign for consumers but now signals weaker global growth, U.S. crude futures plunged 9.5 per cent, falling as low as $48.50 a barrel.

Rome **Fighting domestic violence**

REMO CASILLI/REUTERS

A group of women wearing wedding dresses splattered with red dye pose yesterday while publicizing a demonstration to be held this weekend against domestic violence in Rome.

40 militants killed in Pakistan

VIOLENCE Pakistani forces killed 40 Islamist fighters yesterday as artillery and jet fighters backed ground troops fighting in the Bajaur tribal region, and an air strike hit militants in Swat valley, officials said.

Pakistani troops began an offensive in Bajaur last August, and the military says more than 1,500 militants have been killed while 73 soldiers have also died, though no independent verification of casualties is available. REUTERS

U.S. judge orders Algerians' release

CUBA Five of six Algerians held nearly seven years at the U.S. military prison at Guantanamo Bay must be released, a U.S. federal judge ruled yesterday.

U.S. District Judge Richard Leon ruled from the bench after holding the first hearings under a landmark Supreme Court ruling in June that gave Guantanamo prisoners the legal right to challenge their continued confinement.

President-elect Barack Obama has promised to close the prison camp after he takes office in January. Meanwhile, U.S. judges in Washington are reviewing about 200 detainee legal challenges.

As the detainees listened in Guantanamo via a telephone hookup, Leon said the U.S. government failed to prove the five men who had been living in Bosnia had planned to travel to Afghanistan to fight against U.S. forces. He ordered the U.S. government to take steps to facilitate their release "forthwith."

There are about 255 detainees at Guantanamo, which was set up in 2002 to hold terrorism suspects captured after the Sept. 11 attacks. REUTERS

News in brief

CANCER A national screening program in Finland has detected about 40 percent of colon cancers early, showing that such tests can make a difference, researchers said. Researchers studied 106,000 men and women aged 60 to 64 across Finland to examine the effectiveness of a screening programme in which samples are analyzed for blood. The team found that the test identified four out of ten colon cancers, enough to call the program a success. REUTERS

Pledge caps climate summit in California

ENVIRONMENT Impatient with the pace of national governments in fighting global climate change, 13 U.S. state governors joined counterparts from six other countries Wednesday to pledge co-operation to curtail Earth-warming greenhouse gas emissions.

The declaration, issued by California Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger, capped a two-day climate change summit he hosted in Beverly Hills. "We will make the tough decisions to restore our planet's health," Schwarzenegger said.

The meeting opened Tuesday with a videotaped message from U.S. president-elect Barack Obama vowing to "engage vigorously" in international climate change talks once he takes office and to take steps to slash U.S. greenhouse emissions by more than 80 per cent by mid-century.

The broadly worded two-page declaration pledged signatories to share technology and to "achieve quantifiable greenhouse gas emission reductions collectively." But it recognized that developing and industrialized nations face "differentiated responsibilities and capabilities."

The statement also promised greater efforts in adapting to the regional impacts of global warming — rising sea levels, worsening droughts, more frequent storms — and to help "those that are disproportionately affected, or most likely to suffer the consequences of climate change." REUTERS

Thai protest group blames government for bombing

PAD The leader of a long-running anti-government street movement in Thailand called for a major rally on Sunday to oust the "murderous" administration after one of its supporters was killed in a grenade attack.

Sondhi Limthongkul accused the government of having a hand in the firing of the bomb in the early hours yesterday into the prime minister's compound, occupied by the People's Alliance for Democracy (PAD) since August.

"The PAD can no longer tolerate this murderous government that kills its people daily and cruelly," he said, reading out a statement on PAD radio and television after an emergency meeting of his inner circle.

Prime Minister Somchai Wongsawat denied the accusation, telling reporters the government had "never had a policy to cause unrest or hurt any Thai".

Besides the dead man, identified as a 48-year-old with shrapnel wounds to the chest, 23 people were hurt in the blast, the most serious in a series of small attacks against the PAD sit-in. REUTERS

CHAIWAT SUBPRASOM/REUTERS

Piyachar, left, the wife of Janekit Kratsakhon, her son Sirachat, centre, and her daughter Lipikar cry in front of the coffin of Janekit Kratsakhon, who died after a grenade attack on protesters outside the metropolitan police headquarters in Bangkok.

CIA-backed program lacked 'adequate safeguards'
The CIA obstructed inquiries into its role in the shooting down of an aircraft carrying a family of U.S. missionaries in Peru in 2001, the agency's inspector general has concluded. Veronica Bowers, and her infant daughter Charity, were killed in the crash. REUTERS

FEMA warns of giant U.S. quake

REPORT People in a vast seismic zone in the southern and midwestern U.S. would face catastrophic damage if a major earthquake struck, a government report said yesterday.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency said if earthquakes strike in the New Madrid Seismic Zone, they would cause "the highest economic losses due to a natural disaster in the United States."

FEMA predicted a large earthquake would cause "widespread and catastrophic physical damage" across Alabama, Arkansas, Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, Mississippi, Missouri and Tennessee — home to some 44 million people.

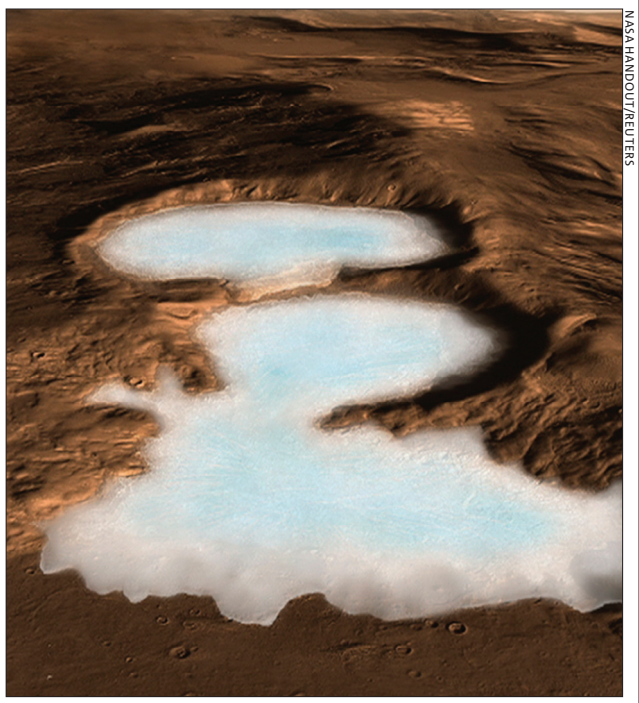
The zone, named for a town in Missouri's southeast corner, is subject to frequent mild earthquakes.

Experts have long tried to predict the likelihood of a major quake like those that struck the zone in 1811 and 1812. They shifted the course of the Mississippi River and rang church bells on the East Coast, but caused few deaths amid a sparse population. REUTERS

Glaciers on Mars

Water source could aid in future missions

A radar instrument aboard a NASA spacecraft has detected large glaciers hidden under rocky debris that may be the vestiges of ice sheets that blanketed parts of Mars in a past ice age, scientists said yesterday.


NASA HANDOUT/REUTERS

An artist's conception shows what NASA's Mars Reconnaissance Orbiter has revealed: Vast Martian glaciers of ice under protective blankets of rocky debris at much lower latitudes than any ice previously identified on the planet.

The glaciers, the biggest known deposits of water on Mars outside of its poles, could prove useful for future manned missions to the red planet as drinking water or rocket fuel, University of Texas planetary geologist John Holt said.

The glaciers, perhaps 200 million years old, also may entomb genetic fragments of past microbial life on Mars as well as air bubbles that might reveal the composition of the atmosphere as it was long ago, according to geologist James Head of Brown University in Providence, Rhode Island.

A ground-penetrating radar instrument aboard the U.S. space agency's Mars Reconnaissance Orbiter collected the data that confirmed the presence of the buried glaciers that extend for dozens of miles from the edges of mountains or cliffs.

These closely resemble glaciers in Antarctica that similarly are covered by rocky debris, Head said.

Scientists previously determined that large deposits of ice exist at the Martian north and south polar regions, but hundreds of these buried glaciers are located at mid-latitudes on the planet. REUTERS

Store takes bets on date Obama will be killed

Passions flared in a Maine town yesterday over a sign in a store asking customers to place bets on an assassination of President-elect Barack Obama.

The town council in Standish condemned the sign yesterday in a 6-0 vote and declared it reprehensible at a meeting where some residents defended the store owner, saying he had a right to free speech even if in bad taste, local authorities said.

"The town of Standish condemns in the strongest terms any such alleged activity calling for violence against any individual no matter their position, race or ethnicity," said the resolution posted on the town's website.

The sign in the Oak Hill General Store asked customers to place a $1 bet on the date of Obama's assassination, and said "Let's hope someone wins," the Portland Press Herald reported. It was called the "Osama Obama Shotgun Pool."

The store in the town of 9,285 people in southwest Maine has remained closed since reports of the sign appeared in the media on Sunday. REUTERS

News in brief

OIL The 9th Circuit Court of Appeals blocked a major oil-drilling program in the Beaufort Sea yesterday, ruling that federal officials failed to address environmental impacts when they granted permission to Shell Oil to drill wells over a three-year period. REUTERS

GREECE Archaeologists in central Greece have unearthed the remains of a Neolithic settlement discovered by workers laying a gas pipeline, the Greek Culture Ministry said yesterday. Ovens and pottery, rare decorated vases and bone tools were found at the site. REUTERS

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Comment & Views

Comment

The have-not's lament

OmniVision

Rick McGinnis
rick.mcginnis@metronews.ca

Ontarians have had enough to distract them over the last few months, to be sure — there have been two election campaigns, an economic meltdown and two seasons of So You Think You Can Dance, after all. You can't escape history, though, and with the early snowfall comes the reminder that we're in for a long winter, and our first since Michael Jackson's Thriller was released that we're going to be a welfare province.

The rest of the country was looking up the word "Schadenfreude" earlier this year, when it was announced that the province they loved to hate had slipped into the economic classification known as a "have-not" member of Confederation, and that Upper Canada would be due for transfer payments as part of some inscrutable federal formula. The news kept Rick Mercer going on overdrive for weeks.

This week, former premier Mike Harris wrote an editorial in the National Post mourning that "Ontario isn't just on the edge of a fiscal and economic crisis — we've toppled over a cliff, and no one really knows how far down we might fall." On the same day, the province's Tory opposition released MPP Ted Chudleigh's poem about the province's fiscal situation in an e-mail.

"Ontario, the land of my birth," Chudleigh writes, "For decades, the centre of fortune and mirth/Where hard work and sacrifice defined our self-worth/Where none could imagine dependence and dearth." Doggerel, to be sure, and hardly likely to elicit sympathy from the rest of the country, but it suggests a creative solution to the crisis that hasn't been explored.

There are ... so many more ways we could ... "spread the wealth" without inspiring resentment from Peggy's Cove to Granby Bay.

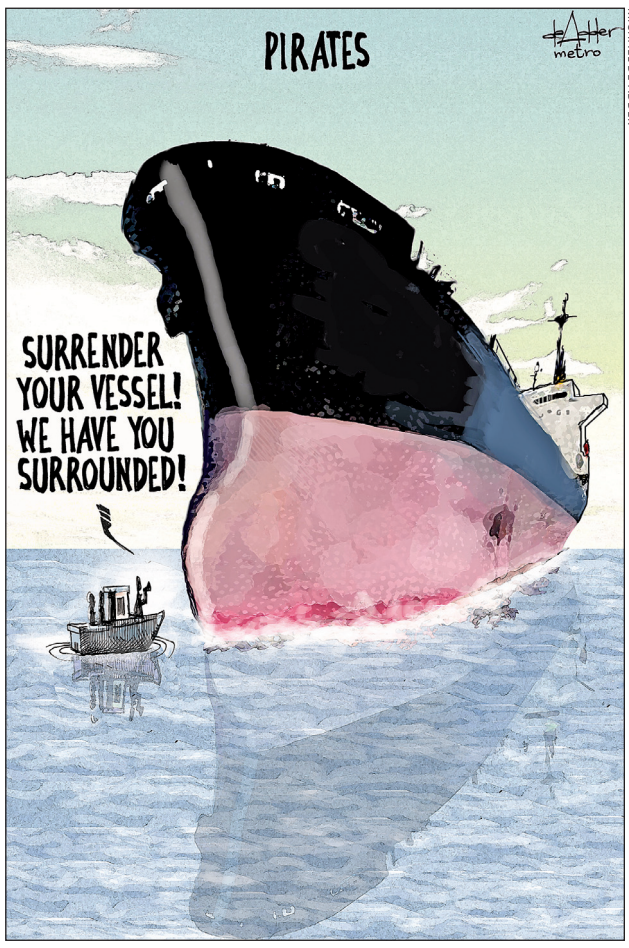
While the province counts down till the start of the next fiscal year and the $347 million due from Ottawa, we're also bracing ourselves for the inevitable jeers and scorn from the rest of the country. It doesn't have to be this way; there are, after all, so many more ways we could, in Barack Obama's phrase, "spread the wealth" without inspiring resentment from Peggy's Cove to Granby Bay.

Surely the Atlantic provinces could spare us a few decent poets to relieve us from versifying such as Chudleigh's, and can't creative surpluses in the rest of the country be alleviated at little more than the cost of a flight to Toronto on Westjet or Porter?

Montreal has no shortage of dance companies, and Winnipeg can certainly spare a few film collectives. Calgary has its share of surly salespeople — can't they find positions in Gap stores all around the Golden Horseshoe? As for British Columbia, they've been doing their bit for years, sending Ontario discrete shipments of BC Big Bud and Merville Blueberry along with their spare bassists and film set drivers.

All I'm saying is that being a have-not province doesn't mean Ontario has to be resented by the rest of the country; considering what we'd get in exchange, I think we'd deserve your pity.

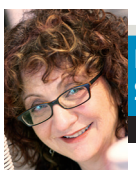
Rick McGinnis writes about music, movies, books and television, but not opera.



MICHAEL DE ADDER

Views

Thank God, it's family dinner night



Bonnie Stern

Family meals are making a big comeback. Everyone is looking for comfort, camaraderie and a trusting environment. Where have we gotten with everyone fending for themselves, letting big companies provide home meal replacements, dining out all the time and buying exotic, expensive ingredients?

With our current economy family meals make a lot of sense. When you entertain, invite guests to be part of a family meal rather that a Saturday night extravaganza. Guests feel honoured to be invited into your family and they love to help with cooking — even with the dishes! You can serve reasonably priced ingredients, you don't have to have fancy flowers or table settings and you don't have to feel guilty about it.

In the last few years, people have become more and more suspect of the safety of our food, our environment and of the world in general. Large companies preparing countless amounts of food are bound to have problems at one time or another. When you cook for yourself you have more control, know the quality of your ingredients and don't have to worry about the food keeping forever. You can buy locally produced foods and help protect the environment as well as your family.

When you buy prepared foods it is pretty hard to pass recipes down to your children. Your children will probably repeat your model. And if the company you use goes out of business, there won't be any more traditional family recipes.

A family dinner is the time to celebrate your family's accomplishments and discuss any problems. I like Friday night for many reasons, but one is that it's a great time to discuss the week gone by while it's still fresh in everyone's mind. Then you can say goodbye to it and welcome the weekend. Family dinners create family values and in times of uncertainty, it helps to have people around you that you can trust.

People are looking for emotional connections so desperately that even strangers are getting together to cook and eat meals together. Pot-luck dinners are the entertaining style of the year and even television shows, like the hit Gossip Girl, are promoting family dinners.

So invite your friends to join your family or create a family for yourself from the different "families" you belong to (alumni groups, work groups, book clubs, etc.). When people realize how good it feels to gather around the table and feel taken care of, they will turn around and do the same things with other people. Try it. It's catching on.

Bonnie Stern is a teacher, columnist, author and one of Canada's top food experts. Her latest book is Friday Night Dinners (Random House Canada.)

Letters

Bozenna Siedlecka, PORT MOODY, B.C.

It seems to me that soon a time will come when the Supreme Court of Canada, in the name of non-discrimination, will decide on women's demand that buying tickets to sport events, for instance, and watching it is a mandatory for everyone.

I did not know that a sport like ski jumping, for instance, is a legitimate job governed by some kind of industry which is obligated by law to employ women regardless of public interest.

If women ski jumpers want to jump, they should seek interested parties to sponsor them. I think the Supreme Court should stay away from this.

B. Bailey, BURLINGTON, ONT.

As a daily commuter, I'm quite familiar with Metro and Rick McGinnis' columns. I just want to pass on positive vibes by saying I love his writing style and appreciate the humour.

Thanks for making the commute (more) bearable, and for being arguably the most credible movie reviewer that Metro has.

Christine Arcand Godin, BOURGET, ONT.

Re: Tougher rules for seniors?, Nov. 19

Senior drivers respect the law more than younger drivers because their parents taught them the meaning of respect for others as well as good manners.

Being a senior doesn't mean we all drive our cars into telephone poles because our hair turning white made us go insane.

Ms. Christine Williams should know that seniors have to undergo exams and tests after 65, for eyesight and other health-related driving risks — it is the law.

It's the law for younger drivers that is criminally lax.

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Enbridge sells $500M in debt despite turmoil

Enbridge Inc. has placed $500 million in corporate debt with investors, selling $300 million in 10-year notes with a 6.62 per cent coupon to a group of 30 institutional investors. That follows a $200million sale of five-year debentures at 5.57 per cent. **REUTERS**

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EDITOR: FERMIN DESOUZA, FERMIN.DESOUZA@METRONEWS.CA

PM vows to fight crisis by any means

Canada will take whatever fiscal and monetary measures are needed to combat the effects of the global financial crisis, Prime Minister Stephen Harper said yesterday, predicting more economic gloom to come.

Harper also told Parliament that the Conservative government would not balance the budget by raising taxes or cutting essential services in a time of upheaval.

"World governments have resolved that they will undertake whatever financial, monetary and budgetary measures are necessary to cope with the crisis, and let me be clear — this is also the position of the government of Canada," Harper said.

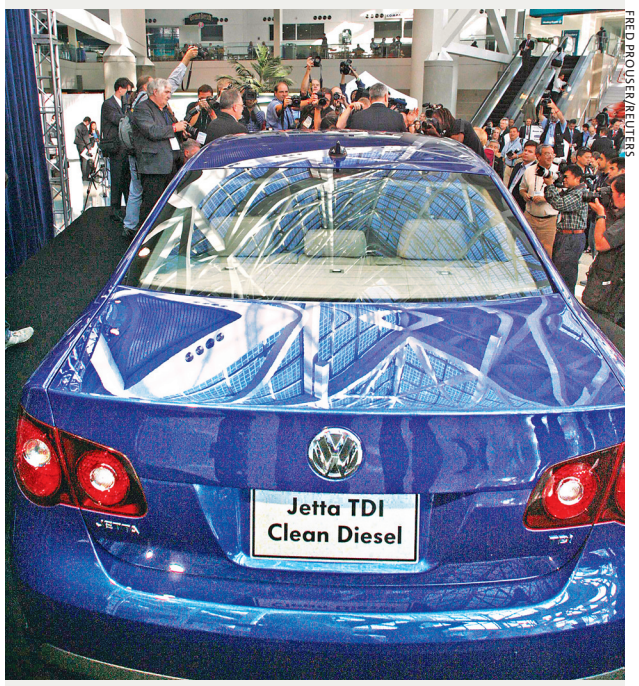
He also promised short-term stimulus for the economy amid a U.S. recession.

"We have been affected and will be further affected."
Stephen Harper

"We have been affected and we will be further affected, particularly given that our closest neighbour and largest trading partner is the epicenter of the financial earthquake," he said.

Finance Minister Jim Flaherty said Ottawa may consider providing economic stimulus through additional investments in infrastructure projects. That would be on top of $16 billion in spending already pledged in the last budget and which Flaherty hopes to disburse more quickly than initially planned. **REUTERS**

L.A. Green diesel heralded



FRED PROUSER/REUTERS

Photographers crowd around a Volkswagen 2009 Jetta TDI on stage after it was named Green Car Journal's 2009 Green Car of the Year at the L.A. Auto Show in California yesterday. This is the first time that a clean diesel model has been given the award.

Watchdog sides with BCE on Internet traffic-shaping

WEB Canada's telecoms watchdog has sided with BCE Inc. in letting the company slow down certain file-sharing traffic on wholesale networks it leases to smaller, independent service providers.

The Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission said yesterday that BCE's main telecom unit, Bell Canada, can continue to "shape" traffic on the leased networks, but will now have to notify wholesale customers at least 30 days in advance of making performance-affecting changes.

The decision comes following a complaint by the Canadian Association of Internet Providers (CAIP).

Bell Canada and other large telecom companies slow down some web activity like peer-to-peer file sharing. They argue file swappers choke their network to the detriment of other users. **REUTERS**

On the market

- BCE shares were down 65 cents at $35.85 on the Toronto Stock Exchange.

Business in brief

OIL Alberta's concession to the oil industry to lower royalties failed yesterday to prevent a 15 per cent drop in energy stocks, which hit their lowest levels in more than four years on tumbling oil and gas prices. **REUTERS**

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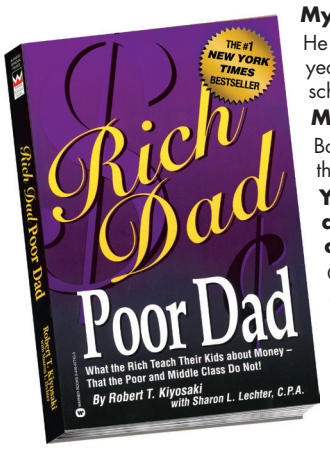

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Teck looks to pay down debt
Teck Cominco will slash spending and sell assets under a sweeping plan to cut its debt, the company said yesterday. REUTERS

Wholesale trade grows

Canadian wholesale trade unexpectedly rose in September, increasing 1.5 per cent, thanks to a rebound in auto sales, Statistics Canada said yesterday, adding to upbeat data on third-quarter economic growth.

Economists expected a 0.3 per cent decline, according to a median forecast in a poll by Reuters.

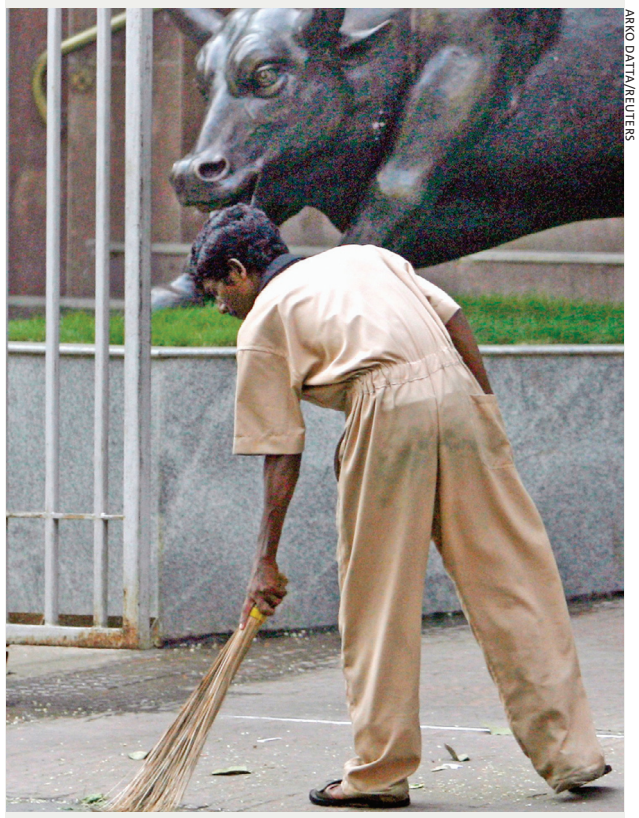
In volume terms, sales rose one per cent.

Sales of automotive products jumped six per cent in September from August, offsetting almost half the losses in August. But sales in the sector, now seen to be in crisis as U.S. consumer demand dries up, were down 4.7 per cent compared with a year earlier.

Meanwhile, machinery and electronic equipment sales were the second-fastest growing category in September, rising 1.4 per cent.

REUTERS

India **Market letdown**


ARKO DATTA/REUTERS

A man sweeps the ground in front of a bronze replica of a bull at the gates of the Bombay Stock Exchange building in Mumbai. India's main share index fell 3.7 per cent yesterday to its lowest close in more than three years.

Exchange rates under scrutiny

CURRENCY The Canadian government reiterated a call yesterday, ahead of this weekend's Asia-Pacific summit, for the revaluation of exchange rates of key Asian countries, including China.

A senior government official, briefing reporters on the upcoming summit, said a number of world leaders had raised concerns over global imbalances and said exchange rates were one of the factors.

He said rates would "need to move in appropriate directions."

REUTERS

In **brief**

TD Toronto-Dominion Bank said yesterday that the "dramatic" lack of liquidity in global credit markets will prompt charges of $350 million for credit-trading losses, reducing its fourth-quarter earnings. TD is the second Canadian bank to pre-release portions of its upcoming fourth-quarter report. Scotiabank said on Tuesday it would take quarterly charges of $595 million after tax. REUTERS

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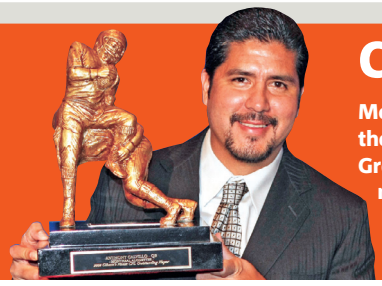
Mussina retires
New York Yankees pitcher Mike Mussina announced his retirement yesterday even as he comes off his first 20-win season. Mussina was 270-153 with a 3.68 ERA in 18 seasons in the majors. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Sports



Calvillo beats Burris for MOP

Montreal Alouettes quarterback Anthony Calvillo, left, took home the CFL's Most Outstanding Player award last night, beating out his Grey Cup counterpart, Henry Burris. B.C.'s Cameron Wake was named Outstanding Defensive Player, Edmonton's Kamau Peterson won Outstanding Canadian and Toronto's Dominique Dorsey captured top Special Teams Player. METRO NEWS SERVICES

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Stamps ready for Als' house

96TH GREY CUP

Sunday

VS

4 p.m.
TV: TSN (Pre-game @1)
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DAN TOTH
for Metro Calgary

Henry Burris hams it up with the Grey Cup at a photo session in Montreal yesterday.

THE SKINNY: The Stamps beat the Alouettes both times they met this season, 23-19 on July 10 in Montreal and 41-30 on Sept. 12 in Calgary.

THE QUOTE: **"For most of our players it will be their first time playing in that building,"** said Stamps QB Henry Burris. **"It's going to be sold out and the fans are going to be excited and everybody is going to be going crazy. We'll just have to do whatever we can to get a great victory."**

THE PAIN: Stampeders all-star cornerback Brandon Browner has been hobbling on a sprained ankle since winning the West semifinal on Saturday but insists it will be mended by game time.

THE UNUSUAL: Although Montreal has "home-field advantage" the Als play in Molson Stadium at McGill University while the Grey Cup game is at Olympic Stadium.

For Dan Toth's live Grey Cup blog, visit us Sunday at www.metronews.ca/blogs

THE ROAR OF THE CROWD: More than 70,000 fans are expected to cram into The Big Owe. They'll serve up a deafening din, preventing Burris from calling audibles at the line of scrimmage. To prepare, the Stampeders coaching staff has been intentionally pumping loud recorded noise through the stadium's sound system during practice.

THE MEMORIES: Calgary's last Grey Cup appearance was also at Olympic Stadium in 2001, a 27-19 win over the Winnipeg Blue Bombers. O-lineman Jeff Pilon is the only player on the Stamps active roster from the last championship team.

THE BETTING LINE: Vegas says pick 'em.

Flames blank Avs

NHL RESULT

Flames 1 Avalanche 0

VS

LAURENCE HEINEN
for Metro Calgary

MARK LEFFINGWELL/REUTERS

THE SKINNY: Daymond Langkow scored the lone goal of the game in the second period as the Flames won both ends of a home-and-home series against the Avalanche.

THE GOOSE EGG: Mikka Kiprusoff stopped all 18 shots he faced, including big saves on scoring chances by Darcy Tucker and Ryan Smyth in the final frame, to record his second shutout of the campaign, both against the Avs.

GOING POSTAL: The score flattered the Avs as Adrian Aucoin, Mark Giordano and Jarome Iginla all rang shots off the iron behind Colorado goalie Peter Budaj.

THE MILESTONE: With an assist on Langkow's goal, above, Iginla now has 400 helpers during his career with the Flames.

THE NEXT GAME: The Flames will be back in action at the 'Dome on Saturday night when they face the red hot Detroit Red Wings (8 p.m., CBC, Fan 960).

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The Boss officially steps aside

George Steinbrenner's 35-year reign as boss of the New York Yankees ended yesterday when he passed control of the team to his youngest son, Hal. The elder Steinbrenner has gradually withdrawn from the Yankees' day-to-day operations in recent years, and brothers Hal and Hank were appointed co-chairmen in April. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Trends pointing to a Cup Stampede

YorkReport

Marty York

marty.york@metronews.ca

Seven reasons that explain why the Calgary Stampeders will defeat the Montreal Alouettes in Sunday's Grey Cup game at Olympic Stadium:

• Defence wins championships. And the Stamps' defensive unit, sparked by linebacker JoJuan Armour and lineman Mike Labinjo, was the stingiest in the CFL this season. The B.C. Lions couldn't even notch a TD against Calgary in last week's Western final, and that's unusual in the high-scoring CFL. Calgary's defence subscribes to a bend-but-don't-break mentality, drummed into the unit by defensive co-ordinator Chris Jones, who spent the past seven years as a Montreal assistant coach. Jones is entirely familiar with the tendencies of Als quarterback Anthony Calvillo.

• A clutch kick could do the trick. The Stamps' Sandro DeAngelis led the CFL in scoring this season. He also established himself as the league's most dependable kicker. And clutch field goals historically have been key — and often dramatic — components of Grey Cup victories. Als kicker Damon Duval is no slouch and his relationship with club president Larry Smith (Duval married Smith's daughter) isn't the only reason he is on the Montreal roster. But Duval became inconsistent this season and squandered several chip-shot opportunities.

• Home-field disadvantage. This will surprise you, I suspect, but playing in Montreal won't hurt the Stamps a lick. Since 1958, when the CFL was officially formed, teams competing in the Grey Cup in their home city are 3-5. Besides, Olympic Stadium isn't really the Als' home. They play their games at Percival Molson Stadium. As for the so-called 13th man in the stands, the Stamps have prepared themselves by pumping taped, near-deafening sounds into the P.A. system during practices at Olympic Stadium this week. And they need only to score quickly to take the crowd out of it.

• The Stamps sure can score. No CFL team is more explosive. Joffrey Reynolds was the CFL's leading rusher; Ken-Yon Rambo, its leading receiver.

• Calvillo's crashes. The Montreal QB doesn't exactly have a great Grey Cup record. This will be his sixth championship game in a nine-year span. He has won only once before.

• Coaching. Montreal's Marc Trestman exceeded expectations in his first CFL year, no question, but Calgary's John Hufnagel has oodles of CFL experience as a player and assistant coach and knows exactly what Grey Cup week entails. That's a significant advantage.

• Moi. Heck, I picked the Stamps in print to capture the Cup before training camp started this season. I'm not changing my mind now.

CHRISTINNE MUSCHI/REUTERS

Stamps fan Denis Nadeau rides his horse Rolo down Ste-Catherine Street in Montreal last night.

Shades of Grey

• For Grey Cup notes and nuggets, check out Marty York's latest CFL Report, exclusively at metronews.ca. And be sure to pick up Monday's Metro or log on to metronews.ca to read Marty's Grey Cup game column.

Utley, Feliz to undergo surgery

MLB The Philadelphia Phillies announced yesterday that half of its starting infield — All- Star second baseman Chase Utley and third baseman Pedro Feliz — will undergo surgery. Utley will have surgery on his right hip next week. The 29-year-old was rumoured to have problems with the hip most of the season, as his offensive numbers dipped after the All-Star break.

Laval's Groulx wins Hec Crighton

CIS Laval Rouge et Or quarterback Benoit Groulx was named Canadian Interuniversity Sport football's Hec Crighton Trophy winner as player of the year. The two-time Quebec MVP led Laval to an 8-0 record, throwing for 2,385 yards and 12 touchdowns.

Oilers activate Smid from IR

NHL The Edmonton Oilers activated Ladislav Smid from injured reserve yesterday. Smid was on injured reserve because of a concussion.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

SCOREBOARD

NHL

YESTERDAY'S RESULTS

CALGARY 1 Colorado 0
Detroit 4 Edmonton 3
Montreal 3 Ottawa 2 (SO)
Vancouver 3 Minnesota 2
Chicago 6 Dallas 3
New Jersey 3 Florida 1
Pittsburgh 3 Atlanta 2
Washington at Los Angeles

TONIGHT'S GAMES

Florida at Boston
N.Y. Islanders at New Jersey
Phoenix at Carolina
Philadelphia at Buffalo
Nashville at Tampa Bay
Anaheim at St. Louis

NBA

YESTERDAY'S RESULTS

Boston 98 Detroit 80
L.A. Lakers at Phoenix

TONIGHT'S GAMES

New Jersey at Toronto
Orlando at Indiana
Houston at Washington
L.A. Clippers at Philadelphia
Charlotte at Atlanta
Boston at Minnesota
Utah at San Antonio
New York at Milwaukee
Memphis at Dallas
New Orleans at Oklahoma City
Portland at Sacramento
Chicago at Golden State
Denver at L.A. Lakers

NFL

YESTERDAY'S RESULT

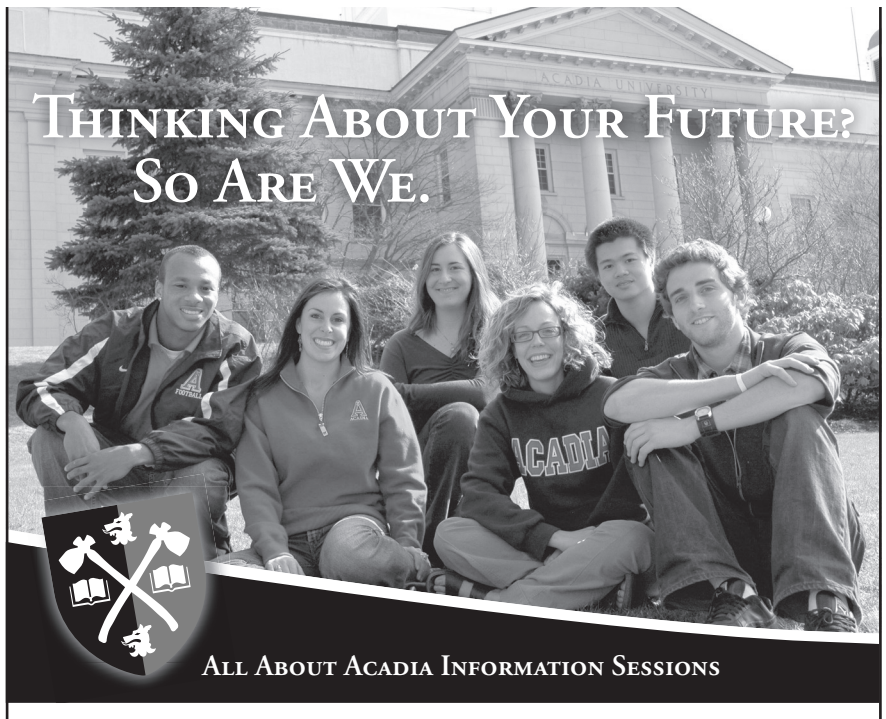
Pittsburgh 27 Cincinnati 10

SUNDAY'S GAMES

N.Y. Jets at Tennessee
Tampa Bay at Detroit
Chicago at St. Louis
New England at Miami
San Francisco at Dallas
Buffalo at Kansas City
Houston at Cleveland
Philadelphia at Baltimore
Minnesota at Jacksonville
Oakland at Denver
Carolina at Atlanta
Washington at Seattle
N.Y. Giants at Arizona
Indianapolis at San Diego

MONDAY'S GAME

Green Bay at New Orleans



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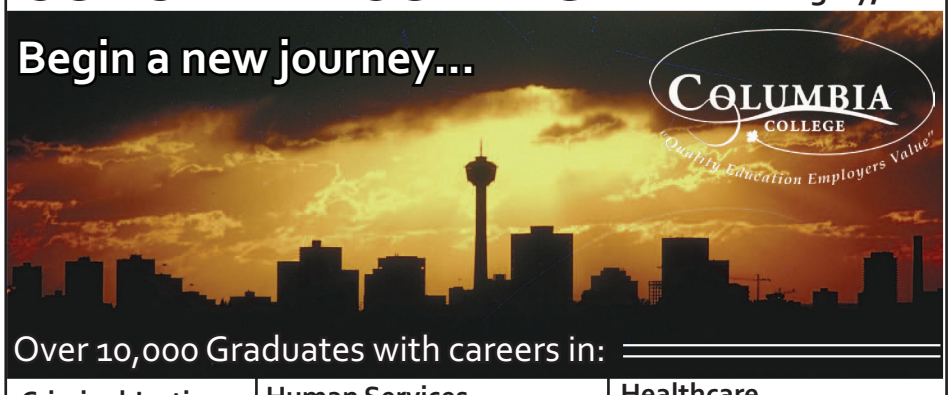

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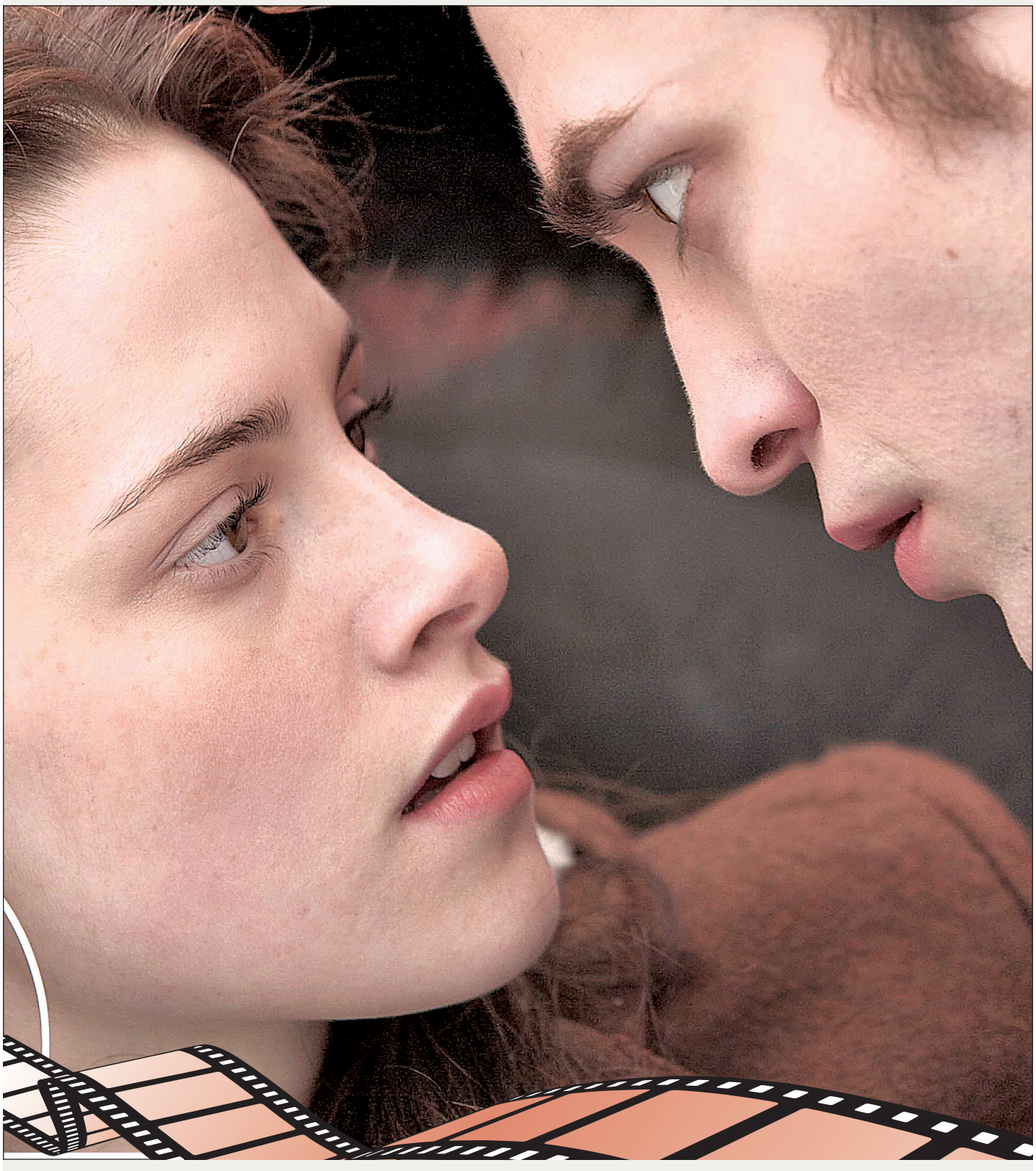
Movies&Entertainment

EDITOR: TINA COSTANZA, TINA.COSTANZA@METRONEWS.CA

Movies

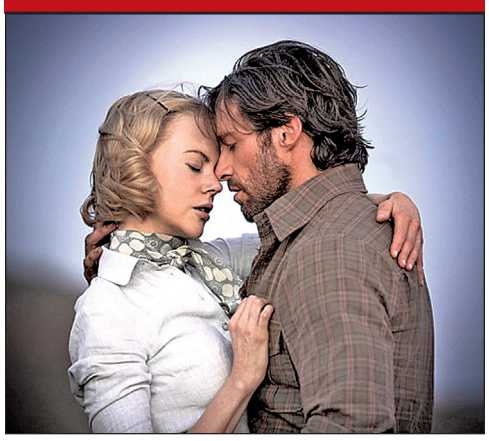
Fatal attraction

Pg 20



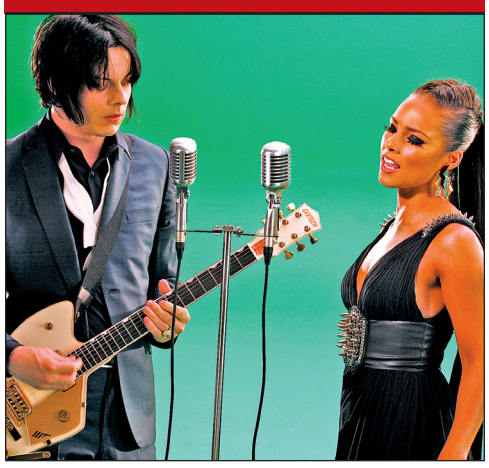
Twilight is already guaranteed an audience in theatres with an established fan base — mainly teenaged girls. Those who adore the literary vampire love story will not be disappointed. Everyone else will just wonder what the fuss is about.

movies Pg 22



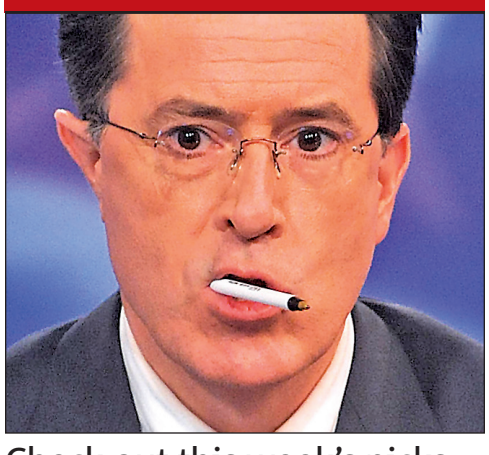
Australia contains all the key ingredients for an epic film.

music Pg 26



Looking at the hits, misses in Bond's musical legacy.

television Pg 28



Check out this week's picks of must-watch television.

Ballet at the movie theatre

The National Ballet of Canada's The Nutcracker will be presented in high-definition at Cineplex Odeon and Famous Player theatres in Calgary Dec. 13. Visit *cineplex.com* for times and tickets. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Movies

●●●●● A CLASSIC; ●●●● EXCELLENT; ●●● GOOD; ●● FAIR; ● POOR

A doggone good tale

Bolt

Director: Chris Williams, Byron Howard
Starring: John Travolta, Miley Cyrus
Classification: G
Rating: ●●●●

STEVE GOW
for Metro Canada

REVIEW I must admit my initial reaction to John Travolta voicing a cute, cuddly puppy in Bolt wasn't one of anticipation. To me, it seemed a role fit more for Zac Efron than Danny Zuko but then, Bolt is not your average animated hit.

The movie starts off benign enough: A young girl named Penny (voiced by Miley Cyrus) falls in love with a pet store pup named Bolt (John Travolta). But it just as suddenly jumps five years and into the framework of what might be best described as a James Bond movie for Jack Russell Terriers.

Here, we find out Bolt is not only gifted with powers that include a "superbark," but that the showbiz doggy doesn't realize its all part of a TV production. However, after Bolt is accidentally shipped across America, he discovers his true mortality and must journey home to his beloved owner.

Essentially, this tale about the unyielding loyalty of canines is as charming and heart-tugging as any Disney movie out there. Even better, the film excels in skill, depth and maturity equaling that of Wall-E and Ratatouille. Not really surprising since Pixar's brilliant chief John Lasseter is now running Disney's animation department as well.

While reticent about Travolta, his voice is actually a comforting fit for the disillusioned doggy. But Disney's story artist-turned-voiceover talent Mark Walton is the true scene-stealer in Bolt. Playing a hefty hamster that joins his TV idol on the cross-country trek, Walton's Rhino is sure to have audiences screaming "fully awesome" and giving Bolt a big boost at the box office.

Entering the Twilight zone

Twilight

Director: Catherine Hardwicke
Starring: Kristin Stewart, Robert Pattinson
Classification: PG
Rating: ●●

PHIL BROWN
for Metro Canada

With an established fan base — mainly populated by teenaged girls — the literary phenomenon Twilight is already guaranteed an audience in theatres.

Chances are, that ready-made audience will like the film, but sadly, anyone hoping for a youth fantasy that can crossover to general audiences, a la Harry Potter, will be disappointed.

It's not that Catherine Hardwicke's film is terrible, it's just a movie with a very selective audience appeal.

Kristin Stewart stars as Bella, a young girl who moves to a small town and becomes instantly captivated by a classmate named Edward (Robert Pattinson), who is part of a very peculiar and insular family known as the Cullens.

As Bella becomes more attracted to Edward, she discovers that the Cullens are a clan of vampires … but very safe emo-vampires who only drink animal blood and spend most of their time silently emoting and looking pretty rather than preying on helpless victims.

Thus begins an epic tale of forbidden love that has made the hearts of millions of teenage girls swoon.

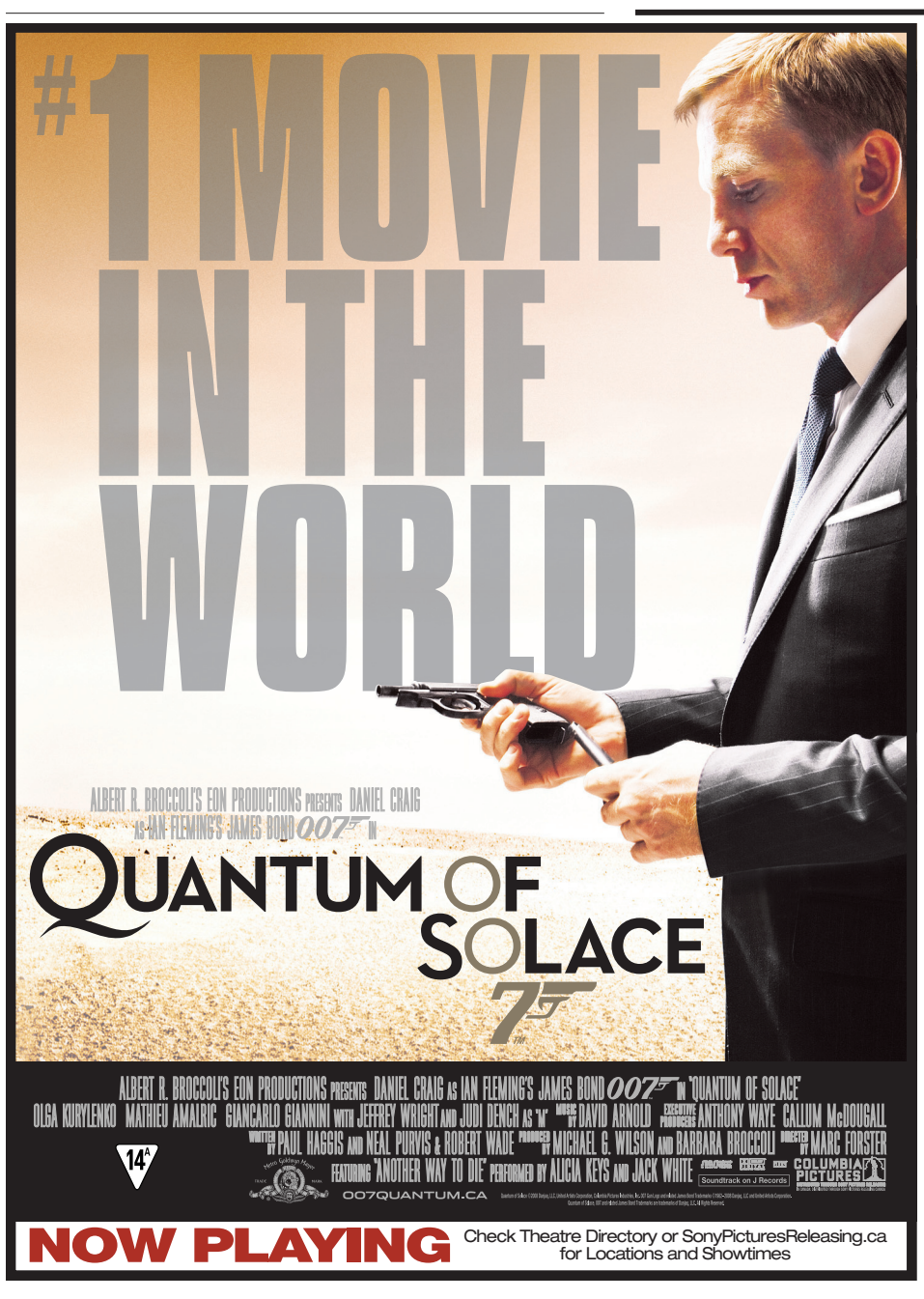
The main problem with the film is how completely uninteresting Edward can be. All he seems to be capable of doing is appearing attractive and emotionally conflicted simultaneously.

It also doesn't help that forbidden vampire love has been a cornerstone of the genre since Dracula, making the plot very old and predictable. The only curveball is the fact that this story takes place with contemporary teens (hence the fan base).

Catherine Hardwicke is a talented filmmaker (see Thirteen) and fills the movie with enough exciting visuals to keep things entertaining while coaxing solid performances out of the cast. But it's just not enough to elevate the film above a predictable storyline.

That said, if you're a fan of the franchise you'll probably enjoy the movie. However, if you're one of the many asking, "What's this Twilight thing all about?" then you should skip the film. You're better off not knowing.

Robert Pattinson plays Edward in the film Twilight.



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Disney picks up The Most Annoying

Disney has picked up The Most Annoying Man in the World by Kevin Kopelow and Heath Seifert. Plot details are being kept under wraps, but Annoying is described as a broad comedy in the vein of Trains, Planes and Automobiles. REUTERS

Reel Time

A CLASSIC; EXCELLENT; GOOD; FAIR; POOR

Kidman, Jackman jumped at chance to work on Australia

FEATURE Red carpets were rolled out in Sydney and the dusty outback on Tuesday for the world premiere of the epic movie Australia which aims to showcase the rugged continent, its history and indigenous people to the world.

Director Baz Luhrmann's ambitious and grandly named film, the most expensive made in Australia, Australian co-stars Nicole Kidman and Hugh Jackman have both carved out lucrative Hollywood careers but jumped at the chance to work with Luhrmann.

"The hardest thing was finishing it," Jackman told a news conference, adding that playing a drover or cowboy in the movie was the "greatest role I have ever had."

Australia is pinning high hopes on the romantic adventure which Luhrmann said he had filmed in the style of Gone With The Wind and hoped would become part of Australian film history.

Kidman, 41, who worked with Luhrmann on his last and third movie Moulin Rouge in 2001, said making Australia was a "once in a lifetime thing" for her.

"Rarely do you get a make a film that you have dreamed of doing since you were little, which will be part of Australian cinema," said Kidman. "This is a celebration for me and hopefully for this country."

Asked about several steamy kissing scenes with Jackman, Kidman joked: "Obviously we were in character, but it was good to go to work."

The two-hour, 40-minute long movie, which is reported to have cost News Corp's 20th Century Fox about $130 million US, is a World War Two drama set in stunning Australian landscape.

The story is about an English aristocrat who travels to Australia and joins forces with a drover and an Aboriginal child to drive a herd of cattle across Australia.

Australia opens in Canada on Wednesday.

REUTERS

Cue the music, it's an epic film

JIM REYNO
Metro Canada

Movie **feature**

The very name conjures images of a screen filled with a vast, open prairie lit by a glorious, breathtaking sunset. Or maybe an imposing old guy with a full beard, with the power of God at his fingertips, ready to part the sea with the wave of a staff.

Add an overblown, melodramatic soundtrack, and ladies and gentlemen, you have —drum roll, please — an epic movie! Cue the horn blast! Crash the cymbals!

"They always seem to have those big, symphonic scores," associate professor of film Patricia Gruben says on the phone from Simon Fraser University in Vancouver. But there are other things an epic movie requires. Check out the media release for the latest epic, Baz Luhrmann's Australia: "With his new film, Luhrmann is painting on a vast canvas, creating a cinematic experience that brings together romance, drama, adventure and spectacle," Gruben says.

"It looks like it's got all the ingredients," she says about Australia. "There's got to be a love story in there somewhere, in every big-budget movie. But with these epic films, there's always the personal story and then the bigger (story).

"Even if it's a love story like Dr. Zhivago or Gone With the Wind, it's against this kind of historical backdrop."

Australia, set in the Second World War, stars Nicole Kidman as an English aristocrat who travels Down Under to save land she inherited. But to do so, she needs the help of a rugged local (Hugh Jackman). Do you think opposites will attract?

The landscape of Australia is also very much a part of the picture. Now, Jackman won't be parting any seas like Charlton Heston did as Moses in The Ten Commandments, but visuals are integral to an epic. So is connecting with your audience.

Nicole Kidman and Hugh Jackman star in Australia.

"It's got to have some kind of mythic dimension," Gruben says. "It's got to tell us something about ourselves as a cultural group or as a nation."

Just as The Ten Commandments appealed to a religious audience, so goes Australia for Australians. Luhrmann, Kidman and Jackman are all Aussies. So if you can connect with people through their eyes, ears and heart, you're talking about a movie of epic proportions.

"I think the spectacle is part of it," Gruben says about the appeal of epics. "And I think very much a part of it — the ones that work, work on the basis of making us feel included in something, make us feel part of some larger idea."

Epic stories

A few epics you may enjoy

- Lawrence Of Arabia
- Doctor Zhivago
- Ghandi
- The Ten Commandments
- Ben-Hur
- Cleopatra
- Gone With The Wind

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Warner presses Control-Alt-Delete
Warner Bros. is pressing Control-Alt-Delete, picking up a comedy spec script described as Bill and Ted's Excellent Adventure meets The Matrix. REUTERS

Reel holiday

Whether you're looking for something to do with your loved ones over the holidays, or trying to get away from those cheek-pinching distant relatives, Hollywood is hoping you'll take in a flick – or a few.

There seems to be more choices than a can of mixed-nuts hitting the screen this year. Here's Metro's peak at some of the holiday-period's movie highlights.

STAGE TO SCREEN: Opie-grad Ron Howard raises the curtain on theatrical adaptation with Frost/Nixon (Dec. 12), a dramatization of the famous 1977 interview between journalist David Frost and a disgraced ex-president Richard Nixon. Howard will have some competition, since Meryl Streep's latest Oscar attempt, Doubt, also opens in some Canadian cities the same day. The Broadway version hit the stage more than 500 times, and Philip Seymour Hoffman and Amy Adams are helping to bring this story of a priest who may have

Movie feature

crossed the line with a student to the big screen.

BIO-STORIES: Beyoncé Knowles may have missed her acting Oscar with Dreamgirls, but she is trying again with a turn as Etta James in Cadillac Records (Dec. 5); about the rise and fall of Chicago-based Chess Records. Sean Penn is also a contender for the golden-guy with his portrayal of Harvey Milk in Gus Van Sant's bio about the 1970s assassination of the San Francisco politician in Milk (limited release Nov. 28). It's anyone's guess how Valkyrie (Dec. 26) will fair. Tom Cruise teams with director Bryan Singer to bring this story of the attempted assassination of Adolph Hitler.

KATE AND LEO It was just over a decade ago that Christmas audiences warmed to in Kate Winslet and Leonardo DiCaprio in the North Atlantic iceberg-crashing epic Titanic. Now Rose and Jack are teemed again, this

Brad Pitt, left, stars in The Curious Case of Benjamin Buttons.

time as a 1950s couple looking for answers in post-wat suburbia in Revolutionary Road (Jan. 2). If you can't wait until the new year, get a Winslet fix in December when she plays a woman defending herself at a war crimes trial following the Second World War in The Reader (Dec. 12).

FANTASY FARE: The 1950s sci-fi classic The Day the Earth Stood Still has received a CGI update with Keanu Reeves playing the role on an alien visitor warning of an impending catastrophe if humanity doesn't clean up its act. (Dec. 12). Meanwhile, things are taking place in Reverse for Brad Pitt, who stars as a man who, instead of growing older, finds himself growing younger everyday in The Curious Case on Benjamin Buttons (Dec. 25).

FAMILY FUN: Nothing says the holidays more than a family sharing a tub of buttered popcorn, and the producers of Delgo (Dec. 12) are hoping it's their film children are eying in theatres. This animated adventure sees Freddie Prinze Jr. provide the voice of a young man who escapes jail after being sentenced for a crime he didn't commit. It's a mouse on the run in The Tale of Despereaux (Dec. 19), with Matthew Broderick voicing a mouse banished from his home. Looking for something a bit more real? Adam Sandler stars as a hotel handyman whose fantastical stories he tells his niece and nephew start to become true in the family movie Bedtime Stories (Dec. 25). METRO NEWS SERVICES

The opposite of a Christmas film

PHIL BROWN
for Metro Canada

FEATURE Seth Gordon burst onto the scene last year with the brilliant documentary The King Of Kong about a pair of grown men fighting over the top score on the original Donkey Kong.

It was inevitable that he would transition into Hollywood after the film, but nobody could have predicted that it would happen so quickly. Before King Of Kong even debuted on DVD, Gordon was hired to direct the comedy Four Christmases — with an all-star cast including Vince Vaughn, Reese Witherspoon, Robert Duvall and Sissy Spacek.

"Vince Vaughn had seen The King Of Kong and I think he responded well to it. He showed it to Reese and they asked to see me," said Gordon. "I barely had time to review the script. I actually read it on the plane to LA. Then I told them my first instincts about the story and found that we were very similarly minded about the problems with the script."

Gordon then worked with the stars to make something that was true to their feelings about families and the holidays. Opening next Friday, the film is about a couple forced to visit their dysfunctional families for Christmas after avoiding them for years.

"I think it's in some ways the opposite of a traditional Christmas movie because the characters are anti-family anti-marriage, and anti-kids," says Gordon. "I guess my own personal attitudes about marriage and kids is closer to the protagonists than I was ready to admit. I think it's very informed by our personal experiences, although I won't say what is loosely based on specific things."

Making Four Christmases was obviously quite different from making a low budget documentary and Gordon admits that it was quite a challenge.

"It was such a leap and the movies have almost nothing in common," he said. "It was a great opportunity that I couldn't resist. I'll definitely do some more comedies in the future, but this was a great one to get to cut my teeth on."

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I Am Legend reunion
In a potential high-profile star-writer reunion, I Am Legend co-scribe Mark Protosevich is in early talks to pen the remake of Old Boy, which Legend star Will Smith is developing with director Steven Spielberg. REUTERS

Bringing the undead to the big screen

InFocus

Richard Crouse
mrchaos33@hotmail.com

This week audiences will travel into another dimension: A dimension where vampires and humans fall in love; where bloodsuckers feed on animals instead of people.

They'll take a journey to a wondrous land where a series of books can become a movie blockbuster. They're about to cross over into the Twilight zone.

Twilight, for the uninitiated, is Buffy's worst nightmare. It's the first in an insanely popular series of books about seventeen-year-old Bella Swan who moves to Forks, Washington and finds her life in danger when she falls in love with ninety-year-old vampire Edward Cullen.

The books are required reading for every teenage girl on the planet and now those undead literary characters are coming to life on the big screen in what will undoubtedly be the weekend's number one film. Vampires, despite Buffy's best efforts, are hot again.

Until recently vampire movies were stuck in a rut, duller than a blunt wooden stake. Too often they relied on the age-old conventions of the genre — bloody fangs, holy water and black velvet capes — while every other horror icon was given a makeover.

28 Days Later gave us fleet footed zombies and Ginger Snaps suggested an alternate werewolf backstory but vampires were stuck in gothic Bela Lugosi Land.

The undead were reinvented for the series True Blood, but until recently interesting revisions of the vampire story at the movies were as rare as baked garlic at Dracula's Diner.

That's what makes Twilight and a new film called Let the Right One In so refreshing. The latter is a Swedish movie about Oskar, a bullied twelve-year old boy who finds love and

Twilight, for the uninitiated, is Buffy's worst nightmare.

revenge through Eli, a pretty but peculiar girl who is also a vampire.

Relocating the story from Transylvania or a giant gothic castle to a snow-bound Stockholm suburb blows the cobwebs off of the traditional vampire tale. The setting is bright white, stark without a gargoyle or coffin in sight.

It's a curious backdrop for a horror movie and the otherworldliness of the setting adds to the disquieting aspects of the story.

So if Twilight is sold out your local theatre this weekend, check out Let the Right One In, or, dig a little deeper and blow the dust off of DVD copies of Tobe Hooper's Lifeforce or The Hunger (David Bowie and Catherine Deneuve as elegantly wasted vamps) or even Blacula for a different take on the vampire myth.

Richard Crouse is the author of Son of the 100 Best Movies You've Never Seen and film critic for CTV's Canada AM.

Movie **morsels**

Changeling

REVIEW Directed by legendary icon Clint Eastwood, Changeling tells the emotional journey of Christine Collins (Angelina Jolie), a single mother in 1920s Los Angeles who comes home to find her son missing. Following weeks of relentlessly searching, the police suddenly show up with her child, reporters in tow. Great. Only there's a catch: It ain't him.

Steve Gow/Metro Canada

Madagascar: Escape 2 Africa

REVIEW If it ain't broke, don't fix it. Yes, it's an archaic, overused adage, but when it comes to Madagascar: Escape 2 Africa, it also applies. The movie isn't without its improvements: It has plenty of jokes and inside-gags for the adults but they're mostly just recycled sensibilities from the 2005 film. Of course, the story is what really counts, and Madagascar 2 tells too many tales.

Steve Gow/Metro Canada

Quantum of Solace

REVIEW The movie starts literally minutes after its predecessor, Casino Royale, ended, with a pre-credit car chase that sums up director Marc Forster's brisk approach to the story. Action scenes are the meat of Bond movies. Most of what we see in Quantum of Solace is at least as good as the standards set in previous films; relentless, and more than a bit improbable. Daniel Craig's JamesBond is still an excellent incarnation of the character.

Rick McGinnis/Metro Canada

Role Models

REVIEW Without its leading men — one uses the term loosely in this case — Role Models would be just another installment in the sub-Apatow genre, which is to say a comedy based on character and dialogue and the odd kick in the nuts. Paul Rudd and Seann William Scott are simply the best parts of a great

Daniel Craig is James Bond.

cast that delivers a barrage of laughs.

Rick McGinnis/Metro Canada

Soul Men

REVIEW Soul Men is a blast from the past in both its plot, about the reunion of a '60s-era R&B group, and its tired 1982-style script and direction. But the late Bernie Mac and Samuel L. Jackson deserve at least some credit for their smoother-than-expected grooving as aging singers. Soul Men's one saving grace is that it's Mac's final performance and for this reason, it may end up generating more box-office returns than it otherwise would have.

Robyn Young/Metro Canada

Cineplex | Empire | Landmark | Independent

This week's new releases are highlighted in red.

Screen Times

THESE PAGES COVER MOVIE START TIMES FROM FRI., NOV. 21 TO THURS., NOV. 27. TIMES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE.

For reviews of Australia, Four Christmases and Transporter 3, pick up Wednesday's Metro.

CANYON MEADOWS
Bay 110 13226 Macleod Trail, 403-670-5444

Appaloosa (14A) Fri-Thu 12:55-3:25-7:05
City of Ember (PG) Fri-Thu 1:25-4-7:10
The Dark Knight (PG) Fri-Thu 1-4:15-8:15
The Duchess (14A) Fri-Thu 1:10-9:10
Eagle Eye (14A) Fri-Thu 1:15-4:15-7:15-9:55
Ghost Town (PG) Fri-Thu 1:05-3:40-7:25-9:50
How to Lose Friends & Alienate People (14A) Fri-Thu 9:40
Igor (PG) Fri-Thu 3:50-7:05
Mamma Mia! (PG) Fri-Thu 1:30-4:10-7:20-9:50
My Best Friend's Girl (18A) Fri-Thu 9:10
Nick and Norah's Infinite Playlist (PG) Fri-Thu 10
Nights in Rodanthe (PG) Fri-Thu 1:05-3:30-7:30
Tropic Thunder (14A) Fri-Thu 1:10-3:50-6:50-9:20
WALL-E (G) Fri-Thu 1:10-3:50-6:50
The Women (PG) Fri-Thu 9:35

CROWFOOT CROSSING
91 Crowfoot Terrace, 403-547-3316

Australia (STC) No Passes Wed-Thu 1:15-4:50-8:30
Body of Lies (14A) Fri 12:50-4:15-7:10-10:25 Sat 4:15-7:10-10:25 Sun-Tue 12:50-4:15-7:10-10:25
Bolt (G) No Passes Fri-Thu 12-2:45-5-7:30-9:55
Changeling (14A) Fri-Thu 12:40-3:50-7:05-10:20
Four Christmases (PG) No Passes Wed-Thu 12:50-4:15-7:10-10:10
High School Musical 3: Senior Year (G) Fri-Thu 12:20-3:20-6:50-9:30
Madagascar: Escape 2 Africa (G) Fri-Tue 12:10-1:20-2:50-3:40-5:10-6:30-7:35-9:20-9:50 Wed-Thu 12:10-2:50-5:10-7:35-9:50
The Metropolitan Opera: La Damnation de Faust (STC) Sat 11
Quantum of Solace (14A) No Passes Fri-Mon 1-1:30-4-4:30-7-7:45-10-10:30 No Passes Tue 1:30-4-4:30-7-7:45-10-10:30 No Passes Wed-Thu 1-1:30-4-4:30-7-7:45-10-10:30 Star & Strollers Screening, No Passes Tue 1
Role Models (14A) Fri-Thu 1:40-4:20-7:20-10:05
Transporter 3 (14A) No Passes Wed 1:50-4:40-7:40-10:25 Thu 1:50-4:40-7:40-10:25
Twilight (PG) No Passes Fri-Mon 12:30-1:10-3:30-4:10-6:45-7:15-9:45-10:15 No Passes Tue 12:30-3:30-4:10-6:45-7:15-9:45-10:15 No Passes Wed-Thu 12:30-1:10-3:30-4:10-6:45-7:15-9:45-10:15 Star & Strollers Screening, No Passes Tue 1
Zack and Miri Make a Porno (18A) Fri-Tue 1:50-4:40-7:40-10:10

EAU CLAIRE MARKET
200 Barlay Parade, 403-263-3166

Australia (STC) No Passes Wed-Thu 8
Changeling (14A) Fri 6:30-9:45 Sat-Sun 12-3:10-6:30-9:45 Mon-Tue 6:30-9:45
Madagascar: Escape 2 Africa (G) Fri 7:10-9:40 Sat-Sun 12:35-3:35-7:10-9:40 Mon-Thu 7:10-9:40
Quantum of Solace (14A) No Passes Fri 7-10 No Passes Sat-Sun 12:30-3:30-7-10 No Passes Mon-Thu 7-10
Rachel Getting Married (STC) Fri 6:40-9:30 Sat-Sun 12:15-3-6:40-9:30 Mon-Tue 6:40-9:30 Wed-Thu 6:30-9:30
Synecdoche, New York (14A) Fri 6:50-9:50 Sat-Sun 12:20-3:20-6:50-9:50 Mon-Thu 6:50-9:50
Twilight (PG) No Passes Fri 6:45-10:05 No Passes Sat-Sun 12:10-3:15-6:45-10:05 No Passes Mon-Tue 6:45-10:05 No Passes Wed-Thu 6:40-9:45

EMPIRE STUDIO 16 COUNTRY HILLS
388 Country Hills Blvd., 403-686-8491

Australia (STC) No Passes, SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Wed-Thu 8
Bolt (G) No Passes, Stadium Seating, SR Dolby Digital Fri-Mon 12:50-3:10-7:25-9:40 No Passes, Stadium Seating, SR Dolby Digital Tue-Thu 7:25-9:40
Bolt in Disney Digital 3D (G) No Passes, SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Mon 12-2:20-4:40-7-9:20 No Passes, SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Tue-Thu 7-9:20
Changeling (14A) SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Mon 12:20-3:35-6:50-9:50 SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Tue-Thu 6:50-9:50
Four Christmases (PG) SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Wed-Thu 7:10-9:25
High School Musical 3: Senior Year (G) SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Mon 1:10-3:45-6:30-9:10 SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Tue-Thu 6:30-9:10
Madagascar: Escape 2 Africa (G) SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Mon 12:10-12:40-2:30-3-6:35-7:05-9:05-9:35 SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Tue 6:35-7:05-9:05-9:35 SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Wed-Thu 6:35-9:05
Passchendaele (14A) SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Sat 1:20-4:05-6:55-9:55 SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Sun 1:20-9:55 SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Mon 1:20-4:05-6:55-9:55 SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Tue 6:55-9:55
Quantum of Solace (14A) No Passes, SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Sun 12:15-12:45-1:15-2:50-3:20-3:50-6:40-7:10-7:35-9:15-9:45-10:10 SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Mon 12:15-12:45-1:15-2:50-3:20-3:50-6:40-7:10-7:35-9:15-9:45-10:10 SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Tue-Thu 6:40-7:10-7:35-9:15-9:45-10:10
Role Models (14A) SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Mon 1:30-3:55-7:40-10:05 SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Tue-Thu 7:40-10:05
Transporter 3 (14A) SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Wed-Thu 7:35-10:10
Twilight (PG) No Passes, SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Mon 12:30-1-3:15-4-6:45-7:15-9:30-10 No Passes, SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Tue-Thu 6:45-7:15-9:30-10
WWE: Survivor Series 2008 (STC) SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Sun 6
Yuvvraaj (PG) SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Fri 12:05-3:30-7:50 SR Dolby Digital Sat 12:05-3:30-7:50 SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Sun-Mon 12:05-3:30-7:50 SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Tue-Thu 7:50
Zack and Miri Make a Porno (18A) SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Mon 1:40-4:15-7:45-10:15 SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Tue-Thu 7:45-10:15

EMPIRE STUDIO 10

Angelina Jolie in Changeling, which is currently in theatres.

MACLEOD TRAIL
100-16061 MacLeod Tr., 403-974-0470

Australia (STC) SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Wed-Thu 12-3:15-6:30-9:45
Bolt (G) Stadium Seating, No Passes, SR Dolby Digital Fri-Thu 11:30-2-4:30-7-9:20
Changeling (14A) DTS Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Tue 12:15-3:20-6:30-9:40 DTS Digital, Stadium Seating Wed-Thu 12:15-3:20-6:40-9:40
Four Christmases (PG) Stadium Seating, SR Dolby Digital Wed-Thu 1:50-4:10-7:25-9:35
High School Musical 3: Senior Year (G) DTS Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Tue 12:45-3:15-7:05-9:35
Madagascar: Escape 2 Africa (G) Stadium Seating, SR Dolby Digital Fri-Mon 11:45-1:15-2:30-3:45-4:45-6:45-7:15-9:25 Stadium Seating, SR Dolby Digital Tue 11:45-1:15-2:30-3:45-4:45-6:45-9:25 Stadium Seating, DTS Digital Wed-Thu 1:15-3:45-7:15-9:25
Quantum of Solace (14A) SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating, No Passes Fri-Thu 1-1:30-3:50-4:20-6:50-7:20-9:45-10:15
Role Models (14A) SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 1:45-4:15-7:30-9:55
Transporter 3 (14A) SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Wed-Thu 1:40-4:45-7:30-10:05
Twilight (PG) SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating, No Passes Fri-Tue 12-12:30-3:30-4-6:40-7:10-9:30-10 SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating, No Passes Wed-Thu 12:30-4-7:10-10
Zack and Miri Make a Porno (18A) DTS Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Tue 9

GLOBE CINEMA
617-8 Avenue, 403-262-3308

Battle in Seattle (14A) Fri 7-9:25 Sat-Sun 1-3:25-7-9:25 Mon-Thu 7-9:25
Heaven on Earth (STC) Fri 7:10-9:30 Sat-Sun 1:10-3:30-7:10-9:30 Mon-Thu 7:10-9:30

MOVIEDOME
1039 999 36 St., 403-248-2000

Burn After Reading (14A) Fri-Thu 1:10-3:50-6:45-10
The Dark Knight (PG) Fri-Thu 7:30
Dostana (PG) Fri-Thu 2-6:30-8-9:15
Eagle Eye (14A) Fri-Thu 12:45-3:35-6:45-9:35
Igor (PG) Fri-Thu 1:20-4:05
Lakeview Terrace (14A) Fri-Thu 12:50-3:35-6:50-9:40
My Best Friend's Girl (18A) Fri-Thu 12:55-3:55-7-9:50
Nick and Norah's Infinite Playlist (PG) Fri-Thu 1:15-3:40-7:05-9:55
Nights in Rodanthe (PG) Fri-Thu 1:05-4-6:55-9:45
WALL-E (G) Fri-Thu 1-3:45

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Australia (STC) No Passes Wed-Thu 2-6:30-10:10
Body of Lies (14A) Fri-Thu 12:50-4:10-7:20-10:25
Bolt (G) No Passes Fri-Sat 1:10-4-6:50-9:30 No Passes Sun 1:10-3:50-6:50-9:30 No Passes Mon-Thu 1:10-4-6:50-9:30 No Passes Fri-Thu 11:45-2:15-4:50-7:20-9:50
Changeling (14A) Fri-Thu 12:15-3:40-7:05-10:20
Four Christmases (PG) No Passes Wed-Thu 12:40-3:40-7:05-9:40
Madagascar: Escape 2 Africa (G) Fri-Thu 12:50-3:50-7:15-10
Madagascar: Escape 2 Africa: The IMAX Experience (G) Fri-Thu 12-2:20-4:40-7-9:20
The Metropolitan Opera: La Damnation de Faust (STC) Sat 11
Quantum of Solace (14A) No Passes Fri-Wed 12-1-2:40-4-5:20-7-8-10-10:40 No Passes Thu 12-2:40-4-5:20-7-8-10-10:40 No Passes Fri-Thu 1:30-4:30-7:30-10:30 Star & Strollers Screening, No Passes Thu 1
RocknRolla (14A) Fri 1:05-4:05-7:25-10:35 Sat 4:05-7:25-10:35 Sun-Tue 1:05-4:05-7:25-10:35
Role Models (14A) Fri-Wed 1:20-4:15-7:10-10:10 Thu 4:15-7:10-10:10 Star & Strollers Screening Thu 1
Saw V (18A) Fri-Sat 12:35-2:50-5:05-7:45-10:30 Sun 12:35-2:50-5:05-10:30 Mon-Tue 12:35-2:50-5:05-7:45-10:30
Transporter 3 (14A) No Passes Wed 1:25-4:25-7:25-10:25 Thu 1:25-4:25-7:25-10:25
Twilight (PG) No Passes Fri-Thu 12:15-1-1:30-3:15-4-4:30-6:45-7:10-7:25-9:50-10:15-10:35
WWE: Survivor Series 2007 (STC) Sun 6
Zack and Miri Make a Porno (18A) Fri-Thu 1:15-4:10-7:15-10:10

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Beautiful Losers (STC) Thu 7
Best of the World Wide Short Film Festival (STC) Wed 7
The Big Lebowski (14A) Thu 9:30
High (STC) Fri
A Married Couple (STC) Fri 7
Montreal Main (STC) Sat 7
The Rubber Gun (STC) Sat
Some Like It Hot (STC) Tue 7
Tell No One (14A) Sat 1:30-4 Sun 2:15-6:50 Mon 4:25-6:50 Tue-Wed 9:30 Thu 4:25
Tkaronto (PG) Fri 4:40 Sun 12-4:40-9:15 Mon 9:15 Tue-Wed 4:40

SUNRIDGE SPECTRUM
2555 32nd Street, 403-717-1200

Australia (STC) No Passes Wed-Thu 2-6:30-10:05
Bolt (G) No Passes Fri-Tue 12:35-3:15-7:05-9:35 No Passes Wed-Thu 12:35-3:15-7-9:30 No Passes Fri-Thu 12-2:30-5-7:30-10
Changeling (14A) Fri 12:20-3:45-6:50-10:10 Sat 3:45-6:50-10:10 Sun 12:20-6:50-10:10 Mon-Tue 12:20-3:45-6:50-10:10
Four Christmases (PG) No Passes Wed-Thu 12:05-2:35-4:55-7:15-9:55
High School Musical 3: Senior Year (G) Fri-Tue 12:25-3:10-7:10-9:50
Madagascar: Escape 2 Africa (G) Fri-Tue 12:15-1:05-2:40-3:35-5:05-6:35-7:35-9:05-9:55 Wed-Thu 12:15-1:05-2:40-3:35-5:05-6:35-7:25-9:05-9:50
The Metropolitan Opera: La Damnation de Faust (STC) Sat 11
Quantum of Solace (14A) No Passes Fri-Mon 12:10-12:40-1-2:55-3:25-4-6:30-6:55-7:20-9:15-9:40-10:15 No Passes Tue 12:10-12:40-2:55-3:25-4-6:30-6:55-7:20-9:15-9:40-10:15 No Passes Wed-Thu 12:10-12:40-1-2:55-3:25-4-6:30-6:55-7:20-9:15-9:40-10:15 Star & Strollers Screening, No Passes Tue 1
Role Models (14A) Fri-Tue 12:50-3:50-7:15-10:20 Wed-Thu 12:50-3:45-7:35-10:20
Transporter 3 (14A) No Passes Wed 12:20-3-6:50-9:35 Thu 12:20-3-6:50-9:35
Twilight (PG) No Passes Fri-Mon 12:05-12:30-12:55-3-3:30-3:55-6:40-7-7:25-9:45-10:05-10:25 No Passes Tue 12:05-12:30-3-3:30-3:55-6:40-7-7:25-9:45-10:05-10:25 No Passes Wed-Thu 12:30-12:55-3-3:30-3:55-6:40-7-10-9:45-10:10 Star & Strollers Screening, No Passes Tue 1
WWE: Survivor Series 2008 (STC) Sun 6
Zack and Miri Make a Porno (18A) Fri-Sat 12:45-3:40-6:45-9:20 Sun 12:45-3:40-9:20 Mon-Thu 12:45-3:40-6:45-9:20

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The Boy in the Striped Pajamas (PG) Fri 6:50-9 Sat-Sun 2:30-6:50-9 Mon 6:50-9 Tue 9:20 Wed-Thu 6:50-9
Happy-Go-Lucky (14A) Sat-Sun 12
Outsourced (PG) Fri 7 Sat 2:50 Sun 2:50-7 Mon-Thu 7
Religulous (14A) Fri-Thu 4:50
Roman Polanski: Wanted and Desired (STC) Fri-Thu 5-9:10

WESTHILLS 10
165 Stewart Green, 403-246-5291

Australia (STC) No Passes Wed-Thu 5-8:40
Bolt (G) No Passes Fri-Sun 12-2:20-4:45-7:20-9:45 No Passes Mon-Thu 5:05-7:40
Changeling (14A) Fri-Sun 12:45-3:45-7:10:05 Mon-Thu 5:55-8:50
Four Christmases (PG) No Passes Wed-Thu 6:10-9
Madagascar: Escape 2 Africa (G) Fri-Sun 12:20-12:50-3:15-4:20-6:30-7:05-8:55-9:25 Mon-Tue 5:35-6:05-7:50-8:40 Wed-Thu 5:35-7:50
The Metropolitan Opera: La Damnation de Faust (STC) Sat 11
Quantum of Solace (14A) No Passes Fri-Sun 12:10-1-3:05-4:10-6:50-7:30-9:55-10:25 No Passes Mon-Thu 5:25-6:15-8:15-8:55
Rachel Getting Married (STC) Fri-Sun 1:05-4-7:15-10 Mon-Thu 6-8:45
Twilight (PG) No Passes Fri-Sun 11:50-12:30-2:55-3:30-6:40-7:10-9:35-10:10 No Passes Mon-Thu 5:15-5:40-8-8:30
Zack and Miri Make a Porno (18A) Fri 12:55-3:50-7:45-10:15 Sat 3:50-7:45-10:15 Sun 12:55-3:50-7:45-10:15 Mon-Tue 6:10-9

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Hot sellers this week

The top selling CDs this week, according to Amazon.ca are: 1. And Winter Came, Enya; 2. A Winter Symphony, Sarah Brightman; 3. A Midwinter Night's Dream, Loreena McKennitt; 4. Soul, Seal; 5. Black Ice, AC/DC. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Music

Bond themes bring thrills

JIM REYNO
Metro Canada

It's not like Jack White and Alicia Keys have been given a licence to thrill.

The unlikely duo collaborated on Another Way to Die, the hodgepodge title song for the new James Bond film, Quantum of Solace. But although having the Bond theme is a high-profile opportunity for any artist, most of the songs don't have anywhere near the shelf life of the franchise.

Got room on your IPod for All Time High by Rita Coolidge? How about Chris Cornell's You Know My Name? And who the hell is Lulu, anyway?

Let's do worst first — literally.

One Bond theme has reached No. 1 in the U.S. — Duran Duran's A View to a Kill, written by frequent Bond-theme composer John Barry. Simon Le Bon gave the track his trademark vocal squeak, and the whole world squeaked along with him.

Alicia Keys and Jack White collaborated on Another Way To Die, the title song for new Bond thriller Quantum of Solace. FILE PHOTO

Then there's Madonna's nasal interpretation of Die Another Die from 2002. Fortunately, it did.

Surprisingly, many of the themes associated with Bond — always action-packed, rigorous flicks — are ballads. That's not to say they're limp and ineffective — this is James Bond we're talking about, after all.

In fact, some of them are — appropriately — killer ballads. Carly Simon's sultry delivery of Nobody Does It Better from the 1977 Bond film The Spy Who Loved Me helped the Carole Bayer Sager/Marvin Hamlisch song garner an Academy Award nomination for best song. You feel like you've made a conquest just listening to it.

Another Bond ballad got an Oscar nod for best song. Sheena Easton, the little Scot with the big voice, earned a nomination with For Your Eyes Only from 1981. Bill Conti and Michael Leeson wrote the song.

The other Bond theme that's been nominated for a best-song Oscar is probably the most loved Bond theme of them all. Paul McCartney & Wings released Live and Let Die in 1973. Composed by McCartney and now-deceased wife Linda, the song is all things Bond: Suave and edgy. It's a fun ride, just like in the movies.

Cornell is Scream-ing

BRYAN BORZYKOWSKI
for Metro Canada

On Nov. 4, when Barack Obama was marching to victory in the American presidential election, Chris Cornell was in Vancouver watching it all unfold on TV. While the legendary Seattle singer was excited by the results, he was especially moved by Canada's reaction to America's affairs.

Cornell

"I got a sense from Canadians that they were pleased about the outcome as well," he says on the phone from Vancouver, a couple days after the election. "That was really cool, you never know how other people are going to react."

He's seen his fair share of cynicism towards America — he lives part time in Paris — and he thinks Obama can change the way people outside the States view his country. "It's good to get away from the States and look back through the lens that other people see us through," he says. "What happened on Tuesday changes that view an awful lot."

As excited as Cornell is about his new president, he's got more pressing issues at hand.

He's currently on tour promoting his third solo album, Scream. It's a vast departure from Soundgarden's brooding grunge, or Audioslave's more straight-up riff rock — in fact, it doesn't resemble anything the artist has done.

This Timbaland produced disc features heavy doses of R&B-like dance music, mixed with rock sounds.

"Musically, this is the most ambitious thing I've been a part of," he says.

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GNR awakes to a whole new world

SoundCheck

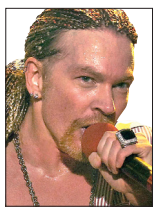
alan@ongoinghistory.com

By the time the new Guns N' Roses album, Chinese Democracy hits stores on Sunday, it will have been 17 years, two months and seven days since the last time Gunners' fans had a chance to buy a CD of new material. When Axl finally emerged from Rip Van Winkle studios, he may have found that the world had, er, changed.

Here's what I mean:

• When "Use Your Illusion 1 and 2" were released on September 17, 1991, an unknown band called "Nirvana" was getting ready to issue a record called "Nevermind" the following week. In other words, grunge was born, peaked, died and became nostalgia in the space between Gunners albums.

• Miley Cyrus was still six months away from even being a viable collection of stem cells. Meanwhile, Daddy was still an unknown mullet. "Achy Breaky Heart" wouldn't be released until the following year.


Axl Rose

• A precocious ten year-old named Britney Spears had just appeared on "Star Search."

• Although AC/DC has just released their first album in eight years, they've released five since the last GNR record.

• The first Lollapalooza Tour had just wrapped up.

• Michael Jackson was still considered a good investment. Sony had just signed him to a contract worth $1 billion.

• Sam the Record Man stocked CDs, vinyl and prerecorded cassettes in locations across Canada.

• Speaking of CDs, they were sold in environmentally-unfriendly packages called "longboxes."

• I bought my new Walkman. It came in a yellow waterproof case so I could take it to the beach.

• "Arnold Schwarzenegger, a politician? You mean that guy in Terminator 2? HAHAHAHA!"

• The biggest game system was the Sega Genesis. Sony's first PlayStation was still three years in the future.

• Computer users were excited about MS-DOS 5.0 because no one wanted to use Windows 3.0. Besides, who wanted to pay $4,000 for a machine with 1MB of RAM and a 40MB hard drive? Who would ever need all that storage?

• The world's population was 5.7 billion. It's now 6.3 billion.

• A lame-duck president named Bush was on his way to being tossed out of the White House by a young, charismatic Democrat and his very smart wife. Meanwhile, there was a brutal recession as the stock market tanked, partly because the cost of fighting a war in Ir–. Okay, so not everything has changed.

The Ongoing History of New Music can be heard on stations across Canada. Read the daily Music Geek blog at ongoinghistory.com

Calgary music lovers listen up

SERIES The BD&P World Music Series is transforming the EPCOR Centre's platform into a world-class musical stage starting this weekend.

Online

• To win tickets e-mail winning@metronews.ca

"The best way to describe it is as a celebration of global music and the best music our world has to offer. It's a reflection of how rich and diverse music around the world is," EPCOR communications coordinator Anna Blaxley said.

And there is something for everyone ranging from Arabian guitar, Columbian electronic, African French and so much more, she added.

"It's a world-class stage that allows music lovers to be up close and personal in an intimate setting," she added.

The series begins Saturday with a performance by Eric Bibb & the African Guitar Summit Saturday. More information can be found at epcorcentre.org.

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Still laughing
Actress Jennifer Aniston admits she watches herself in re-runs of her hit sitcom Friends, insisting she still finds the show that shot her to fame hilarious. **IMDB.COM**

Television

GlobalStyle

Kenya Hunt

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In brief

SERIES Discovery Channel has greenlighted a 13-episode series that will spotlight demolition blasts around the world and explain the science behind the explosions. The Detonators will follow two explosives experts, Dr. Braden Lusk and Dr. Paul Worsey. It will premiere in January. **REUTERS**

COURTS The Lifetime cable TV network has counter-sued NBC Universal, Bravo and The Weinstein Company over the rights to the TV program Project Runway in the latest legal action that has left the hit show in limbo. **REUTERS**

Heroes need rescuing

IntelleVision

Rick McGinnis
rick.mcginnis@metronews.ca

FROM HERO TO ZERO: Nobody will disagree when you say that this season of NBC's Heroes has been lackluster — disappointing even when compared to the last season, as even creator Tim Kring seemed to confirm at a recent screenwriting workshop where he admitted that maintaining the plotlines has been "an absolute bear to do."

Kring also made a curious statement, noting that the way people watch TV has changed, noting that airing long storylines is "a very flawed way of telling stories on network television right now because of the advent of the DVR and online streaming," and that watching a show during its scheduled broadcast slot "is related to the saps and the dips–ts who can't figure out how to watch it in a superior way."

It only took a day or two for Maureen Ryan of the Chicago Tribune to take Kring to task for insulting his show's fans. "The only sap here is Kring," Ryan writes. "Any and all insulting terms should be directed at himself. After all, who is responsible for two seasons of mostly muddy, incoherent storytelling? It wasn't the saps at home on their couches."

Time pop culture critic James Poniewozik went after Kring's confused take on post-broadcast TV, reminding him that — long, long ago, even before only children or MIT scientists could program VCRs — you once had to rely on annoying officemates to catch you up on shows you'd missed because you had to meet your in-laws for dinner, or a diesel rig had careened off the highway and demolished your TV antenna.

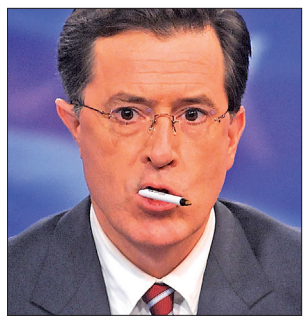
"Time-shifting, streaming and watching on DVD are precisely what has made it more attractive for viewers to watch serial shows," Poniewozik writes. "If you can watch on Hulu, or a second run on cable, or a replay on your DVR, it's easier to catch up.

Kring admitted that, unlike the producers of Battlestar Galactica, he has no idea where his show is going; right now it looks like he's paddled out of sight of land and needs to blame someone for turning a hit show about superheroes into a nerdy melodrama where every new plot twist makes its fans punch themselves in the temple to dull the pain of feeling like a sucker.

Rick McGinnis writes about music, movies, books and television, but not opera.

Colbert for Christmas

Rick's TVPicks



A Colbert Christmas

Air date: Nov. 23
Network: CTV, Comedy Network

BECAUSE YOU CAN'T have enough smug over the holidays, Stephen Colbert brings his college-fried impersonation of Bill O'Reilly to primetime with a variety special featuring guests Feist, Toby Keith, John Legend, Willie Nelson and Jon Stewart. Enjoy it while you can — the onset of the Obama White House means that Colbert and Stewart will be doing variations on Who's On First by this time next year.

Mix of Six

HOT & HAPPENING WEEKEND EVENTS AROUND THE CITY
For more great events, visit: **metronews.ca/entertainment**

Late Shopping Outside City Limits

When: Friday night, Saturday
Where: Okotoks, south of Calgary

This bedroom community's main drag has blossomed into an excellent shopping district with chic boutiques, artisan shops and niche stores. Every holiday season, the town hosts Light Up Okotoks with fireworks, music and treats for the kids. But it's also a plum place for deals on unique gifts.

The Dresser comes to the Pumphouse

When: Begins Friday
Where: Pumphouse Theatre

Workshop Theatre begins a new play run tonight. Directed by Jane Randhawa, The Dresser is a behind-the-scenes tale of an actor preparing to play King Lear. Tickets run from $14-$20 and are available at pumphousetheatres.ca. True to its name, the venue is an old water pumping station.

Serenity in the City

When: Saturday to Monday
Where: Epcor Centre's Engineered Air Theatre

With sessions like Practical Meditation For Busy Lives, this weekend's lecture series with Lama Ole Nydahl could be the perfect way for stressed-out Calgarians to unwind. Visit diamondway.org/calgary.

Male Bonding Through Music

When: Saturday, Doors open at 7 p.m.
Where: Southwood United Church, 10690 Elbow Dr. SW

Grab great tunes away from Calgary's core. Jim Byrnes, Steve Dawson, Amos Garrett and Doug Cox perform under the banner Fathers & Sons for a Fish Creek Concerts presentation. Hmmm, don't think anyone in the lineup is actually related. Buy Dad a ticket anyway at *fishcreekconcerts.com*.

Girls on Film

When: Saturday, 7 p.m.
Where: Delta Calgary South

Women in Television and Film — Alberta celebrates 10 years strong with a special speaker: Co-creator of CTV crime drama Flashpoint, Stephanie Morgenstern. Advances tickets are $40 at wifta.ca.

Tall T.A.L.E.S

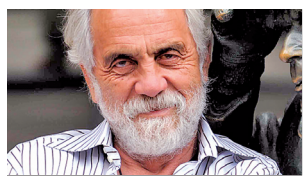
When: Saturday, 2 p.m
Where: Unitarian Hall (1703 1 St. NW).

Before People magazine, the Internet and text messages, people sat around campfires to share stories. A local group called T.A.L.E.S (The Alberta League Encouraging Storytelling) wants to resurrect this form of entertainment. Free.

2008 American Music Awards

Air date: Nov. 23
Network: ABC and A Channel

THE MUSIC awards show that isn't the Grammys sees Jimmy Kimmel return for the fifth shot as host, which says all you need to know. Beyoncé, Coldplay, Kanye West and the Jonas Brothers are among the performers, but if you keep your eyes sharp, you can get a few glimpses of music industry executives vainly trying to hide their fear and despair as their industry tanks.



The U.S. Government Vs. Tommy Chong

Air date: Nov. 23
Network: CBC Newsworld

YOU'RE NOT paranoid, man — they really are after you! That's the message of this documentary about the $12 million US sting operation that got the famous "Dave's not here, man" comic put in stir for 9 months. But please don't tell me that you're going to watch it stoned; no one needs to hear that.

PLEASE CHECK LOCAL LISTINGS FOR SHOWS' AIR TIMES.

Chew on this
Gossip Girl star Chace Crawford recently admitted he'd steal chewing gum from stars when he worked as a valet in Malibu, Calif., and his confession impressed Wrigley bosses, who sent him a huge pack of gum. **IMDB.COM**

Metro's 7th Heaven: Metro taps what's hot right now

1 Holiday movies

Moviegoers are abuzz this week, after the 2008 holiday movie previews were published.

Films expected to cause a box-office frenzy this holiday season include Twilight, Milk and Revolutionary Road.

2 Springsteen's dream

A release date has been finalized for Bruce Springsteen and the E Street Band's new album, Working on a Dream. Fans can expect the record to appear on store shelves on Jan. 27, 2009.

3 WALL-E on DVD

On Tuesday, Walt Disney Home Studios Entertainment released a special three-disc edition of the movie WALL-E on DVD. Additional features include a downloadable copy of the film, behind-the-scenes featurettes, and a short documentary about how sound was produced for the film.

4 Chili challenge

Zantac has created a national chili recipe challenge where Canadians can submit their recipes online, at www.chilichallenge.ca, to be judged. Finalists will compete against Food Network Canada TV host Anthony Sedlak, in a chili cook-off.

5 Rocco to makeover school food

Canadian chef David Rocco is looking to revolutionize the way Canadian children view food. Rocco, who hopes to make cooking part of a student's curriculum, has started by scoping out certain Ontario schools for the project.

6 Mormon musical

Watch out Broadway, the creators of South Park are currently putting together Mormon Musical. The musical is scheduled to take stage in the Manhattan Theatre District in 2009 and will satirize Mormon religion.

7 Justin sings for charity

Pop superstar Justin Timberlake just released a new single, Follow My Lead. The track also features the vocals of singer Esmée Denters. All proceeds from download sales will go to the Shriners Hospitals For Children.

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CONTEST CLOSING! ENTER TODAY

Today's mystery MAUI word is:

H T S O R S

metro Do it daily. transat HOLIDAYS True travel.

To enter all you have to do is unscramble the MYSTERY MAUI WORD of the day and enter it at www.metronews.ca

FRIDAY

CA	Vu	SC	7:00	7:30	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00	10:30	11:00
primetime 11/21/08	243	317 3 CFCN	etalk	Hollywood	Law & Order		Ghost Whisperer (N)		Supernanny (N)		News (N)
	-	371 5 KXLY	4 News at 6	4 News at 6:30	Entertainment	The Insider (N)	Wife Swap (N)		Supernanny (N)		20/20 (N)
	245	306 6 CBRT	Coronation St.	Jeopardy! (N)	Air Farce-Final	Rick Mercer	Doctor Who "Midnight"		CBC News: The National		The Hour
	244	338 7 CICT	ET Canada	Entertainment	NCIS "Cloak" (HDTV) (N)		NUMB3RS (HDTV) (N)		Life "Badge Bunny" (N)		News Hour
	246	- 8 CKAL	Law & Order: SVU		Murdoch Mysteries		Lipstick Jungle (N)		Crusoe (HDTV) (N)		Your City
	119	705 9 CBXFT	À communiquer		Paquet voleur (HDTV) (SC)		Une heure sur Terre (SC)		Le Téléjournal (N) (SC)		TJ Alberta
	-	372 12 KREM	News (N)	Hollywood	The Doctors (N)		Ghost Whisperer (N)		The Mentalist (HDTV)		NUMB3RS
	-	374 14 KSPS	NewsHour With Jim Lehrer		Wash. Week	McLaughlin	Bill Moyers Journal (N)		NOW on PBS	Being Served	Vicar of Dibley
	-	370 16 KHQ	News (N)	Be-Millionaire	Jeopardy! (N)	Wheel-Fortune	Deal or No Deal (N)		Crusoe (HDTV) (N)		Lipstick Jungle
	-	373 22 KAYU	The Simpsons	The Simpsons	Two/Half Men	Two/Half Men	Smarter Than a 5th Grader?		Don't Forget the Lyrics!		News (N)
news	502	390 15 CBC	CBC News: The National		CBC News: the fifth estate		CBC News: The National		CBC News: The National		fifth estate
	500	500 29 CNN	Larry King Live		Anderson Cooper 360 (HDTV)				Larry King Live		Cooper 360
	501	391 52 CTV	CTV Newsnet		News	CTV Newsnet	News	CTV Newsnet	News	CTV Newsnet	News
sports	400	400 21 TSN	Basketball	SportsCentre (HDTV) (Live)			Boxing: Caballero vs. Molitor		2007 Poker Million (N)		
	408	418 27 net	FSN Pro Football Preview		Saturday Night Poker		Hockey Central	Flames Week	Sportsnet Connected		Ult. Fighter
family	552	543 20 YTV	iCarly	iCarly	iCarly Carly, Sam and Freddie travel to Japan.				Smallville "Blue"		Dark Oracle
	557	541 39 FAM	Zoey 101	Latest Buzz	Wizards-Place	*Minutemen* (2008, Comedy) Jason Dolley.			(10:01) *Camp Rock* (2008) Joe Jonas.		
cable variety	-	- 18 CHTV	The Insider (N)	E News	Smarter Than a 5th Grader?		Deal or No Deal (N)		20/20 (HDTV) (N)		News (N)
	603	561 25 FOOD	Chef Abroad	The Wild Chef	Diner, Drive-In	Diner, Drive-In	Restaurant Makeover		Challenge Pie contest.		Chef Abroad
	615	520 26 A&E	CSI: Miami (HDTV)		CSI: Miami (HDTV)		Criminal Minds (HDTV)		CSI: Miami (HDTV)		CSI: Miami
	617	522 32 SHOW	EastEnders	Little Britain	The Best Years (DVS)		The Guard (HDTV)		Testees	Kenny-Spenny	Webdreams
	520	505 35 DISC	Man vs. Wild (N)		The Devil's Triangle		Daily Planet		Man vs. Wild		Greensburg
	628	584 43 SPIKE	The Ultimate Fighter						MANswers	MANswers	GameTrailers
	522	516 45 HIST	Ultimate Engineering		NCIS "Caught on Tape"		Shockwave		Ultimate Engineering		Ax Men
	581	566 102 MTV	Paris Hilton's My New BFF		Spoilers Ed.	The Hills	After Show	Girls-Latitude	Exiled		The Hills

SATURDAY

CA	Vu	SC	7:00	7:30	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00	10:30	11:00
primetime 11/22/08	243	317 3 CFCN	W-FIVE (N)		Law & Order: SVU		CSI: Crime Scene Invstgtn.		Criminal Minds (HDTV)		News (N)
	-	371 5 KXLY	(6) College Football Texas Tech at Oklahoma. (HDTV) (Live)					The Insider (N)	Entertainment Tonight		Storm Stories
	245	306 6 CBRT	NHL Hockey		NHL Hockey Detroit Red Wings at Calgary Flames. (HDTV) (Live)					HNIC -- After Hours	
	244	338 7 CICT	Ultimate Engineering		Tank Overhaul		Painkiller Jane		Re-Inventors	Re-Inventors	News (N)
	246	- 8 CKAL	Survivorman (DVS)		Kaya	Less-Kind	*Perfect Pie* ★★ (2002, Drama) Wendy Crewson.				The City Show
	119	705 9 CBXFT	Le Moment de vérité (SC)		3600 secondes d'extase (SC)		Dre Grey, leçons d'anatomie		Le Téléjournal	Tellement	*Amour captif*
	-	372 12 KREM	News (N)	Scrubs	Operation Smile Free surgery.		CSI: Crime Scene Invstgtn.		Criminal Minds (HDTV)		48 Hr. Mystery
	-	374 14 KSPS	The Lawrence Welk Show		May-December	Time Goes By	(9:05) *Lifeboat* ★★★ (1944, Drama) Tallulah Bankhead.				Steve Miller
	-	370 16 KHQ	News (N)	Raymond	CSI: NY "On the Job"		Knight Rider (HDTV)		Law & Order (HDTV)		Law/Ord SVU
	-	373 22 KAYU	Boston Legal		House		Cops (N)	Cops	America's Most Wanted		News (N)
news	502	390 15 CBC	Sat. Report	Mansbridge	Refuge (N)		Sat. Report	Weekend	Sat. Report	Mansbridge	Refuge
	500	500 29 CNN	Larry King Live		D.L. Hughley Breaks the News		CNN Presents: Crime		Larry King Live		D.L. Hughley
	501	391 52 CTV	CTV Newsnet-Scott Laurie		News	CTV Newsnet	News	CTV Newsnet	News	CTV Newsnet	News
sports	400	400 21 TSN	2008 World Series of Poker		Boxing Ricky Hatton vs. Paulie Malignaggi. (HDTV) (Live)					SportsCentre	Boxing
	408	418 27 net	English Premier League Soccer Teams TBA.				The Ultimate Fighter		Saturday Night Poker		Sportsnet Con.
family	552	543 20 YTV	Adrenaline	Adrenaline	Wolverine	Transformers	Naruto	Blue Dragon	Zatch Bell (N)	Bleach	Storm Hawks
	557	541 39 FAM	Natural-Sadie	Flight 29 Down	That's-Raven	Zoey 101	Life Derek	Han. Montana	*Read It and Weep* (2006, Comedy)		
cable variety	-	- 18 CHTV	E News	The Soup	X-Weighted "Angela J."		Rent-A-Goalie	Billable Hours	Kenny-Spenny	Cock'd Gunns	E News
	603	561 25 FOOD	Top Chef		Kitchen Nightmares		The F Word		Challenge		Top Chef
	615	520 26 A&E	(6) *My Cousin Vinny* (1992, Comedy)			The Sopranos (HDTV)		Parking Wars	*My Cousin Vinny* ★★★ (1992, Comedy)		
	617	522 32 SHOW	*The Ring Two*	Trailer Park	About a Girl	Kink in Hair	*It's All Gone Pete Tong* ★★ (2004, Comedy) Paul Kaye.				*The Island*
	520	505 35 DISC	Canada's Worst Driver		Criss Angel	Criss Angel	A Haunting		Canada's Worst Driver		Criss Angel
	628	584 43 SPIKE	(6) *Sniper* ★★ (1993)		*Kung Fu Hustle* ★★★ (2004, Action) Stephen Chow.				*Kung Fu Killer* (2008, Adventure), Daryl Hannah		
	522	516 45 HIST	NCIS		*Oswald's Ghost* (2007, Documentary) Premiere.				*JFK* ★★★ (1991, Drama) Kevin Costner.		
	581	566 102 MTV	Girls-Latitude	After	Cribs	Cribs	Cribs	Cribs	Cribs	Cribs	Girls-Latitude

SUNDAY

CA	Vu	SC	7:00	7:30	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00	10:30	11:00
primetime 11/23/08	243	317 3 CFCN	Star Wars Clo.	Degrassi: Next	Without a Trace (N)		The Amazing Race 13		Colbert Christmas: Gift		News (N)
	-	371 5 KXLY	News	Storm Stories	Music Awards Red Carpet		2008 American Music Awards (HDTV)				
	245	306 6 CBRT	Heartland (HDTV) (DVS)		*Appointment With Death* ★★ (1988, Mystery)				CBC News: Sunday Night (N)		fifth estate
	244	338 7 CICT	renegadepress	King of the Hill	Family Guy	The Simpsons	*24: Redemption* (2008, Action) Kiefer Sutherland.				News (N)
	246	- 8 CKAL	Murdoch	Friends	Easy Money (HDTV)		Valentine "Valentine"		Crusoe (HDTV)		Reviews
	119	705 9 CBXFT	Découverte (N)	Et Dieu créa	Tout le monde en parle (HDTV) (SC)				(10:15) Le Téléjournal (SC)		SMASH (SC)
	-	372 12 KREM	News (N)		60 Minutes (HDTV) (N)		The Amazing Race 13		Cold Case "Pin Up Girl"		The Unit
	-	374 14 KSPS	Spain ... On the Road Again		Nature (HDTV) (N) (DVS)		Unseen Alistair Cooke		NW Profiles	Masterpiece Mystery!	
	-	370 16 KHQ	(6:15) NFL Football Indianapolis Colts at San Diego Chargers.					Best Sports	Law & Order: SVU		CSI: NY
	-	373 22 KAYU	House "Kids"		King of the Hill	King of the Hill	*24: Redemption* (2008, Action) Kiefer Sutherland.				News (N)
news	502	390 15 CBC	CBC News: Sunday Night (N)		*A/K/A Tommy Chong* ★★ (2005)			Our World	CBC News: Sunday Night		*AKA Tommy*
	500	500 29 CNN	Larry King Live		D.L. Hughley Breaks the News		CNN Presents: Crime		Larry King Live		D.L. Hughley
	501	391 52 CTV	CTV Newsnet-Scott Laurie		News	CTV Newsnet	News	CTV Newsnet	News	CTV Newsnet	News
sports	400	400 21 TSN	CFL Football	NFL Football Indianapolis Colts at San Diego Chargers.				SportsCentre		Season Review	Season Review
	408	418 27 net	Saturday Night Poker		World Combat League		World Combat League		Sportsnet Connected		Poker
family	552	543 20 YTV	*Zathura: A Space Adventure* ★★★ (2005, Adventure)				SpongeBob	Prank Patrol	The Next Star		Falcon Beach
	557	541 39 FAM	Natural-Sadie	Flight 29 Down	That's-Raven	Zoey 101	Life Derek	Han. Montana	*Angus* ★★★ (1995, Drama), Kathy Bates		
cable variety	-	- 18 CHTV	Greatest Myst.	Greatest Myst.	*24: Redemption* (2008, Action) Kiefer Sutherland.				Real Housewives of OC		FANatical
	603	561 25 FOOD	Iron Chef America		Jamie's Kitchen Australia		Chef School	At the Table	Challenge		Iron Chef Am.
	615	520 26 A&E	CSI: Miami (HDTV)		CSI: Miami (HDTV)		CSI: Miami "Pirated"		CSI: Miami (HDTV)		CSI: Miami
	617	522 32 SHOW	(5) *The Island* (2005)		The Guard (HDTV)		*To Be Fat Like Me* (2007, Docudrama) Kaley Cuoco.				Weeds
	520	505 35 DISC	(6) To Be Announced		MythBusters		Anthony Bourdain		To Be Announced		
	628	584 43 SPIKE	(6) *Star Wars: Episode I -- The Phantom Menace* (1999)				CSI: Crime Scene Invstgtn.		Disorderly Conduct: Video		Disorderly
	522	516 45 HIST	Finding the Fallen		NCIS "Red Cell"		Carlos the Jackal		*The Jackal* ★★ (1997, Suspense)		
	581	566 102 MTV	Cribs	Cribs	Cribs	Cribs	After	MTV News	MTV Shuffle		Girls-Latitude

Eva goes veggie
Desperate Housewives star Eva Longoria Parker has reportedly given up meat in a bid to lose weight and get healthy.
IMDB.COM

Celebrity Buzz

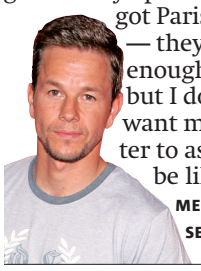
No role models in L.A.: Wahlberg

PARENTING Mark Wahlberg doesn't want his daughter to look up to singer Britney Spears and hotel heiress Paris Hilton, femalefirst.co.uk reports.

The actor, who has a five-year-old daughter Ella Rae, two-year-old son Michael and nine-week-old Brendan Joseph with fiancée Rhea Durham, wants to move away from Hollywood because there are no positive role models for his children.

"There are no real role models for girls. You've got Britney Spears, you've got Paris Hilton — they're nice enough people but I don't want my daughter to aspire to be like that."

METRO NEWS SERVICES



Madonna and Ritchie to be divorced today

IN COURT Pop star Madonna and her film director husband Guy Ritchie are to be divorced at the High Court in London today, according to court lists.

A notice of the couple's decree nisi will be posted at the Registry of the Family Division, BBC News Online reports.

According to newspaper reports, the couple have reached a settlement over finances and sharing custody of their three children.

The couple are registered for the divorce hearing under the names Ciccione M and Ritchie GS. It will be heard before the High Court's Family Division. Neither party are required to attend the hearing, which is likely to last a matter of minutes.

According to The Times newspaper, the 50-year-old singer will retain the bulk of her wealth.

The couple's two sons, eight-year-old Rocco and David, 2, may share their time between their U.K. and U.S. homes, reports suggest.

The paper added that Lourdes, Madonna's 12-year-old daughter from a previous relationship, will continue to live with her mother.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Paltrow is sorry for wearing fur

APOLOGY Gwyneth Paltrow is trying to get back in animal rights activists' good books, by apologizing to the People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals for endorsing Tod's collection of luxury fur goods, imdb.com reports.

A spokesperson said at the time that they had written to the star many times about the treatment of animals used for fur, but their contact had been rebuffed.

But Paltrow made amends by telling PETA vice-president Dan Mathews she didn't realize the fox fur and fur-lined boots were real.

Mathews recounted the apology to Usweekly.com, saying "(Paltrow said) … it was a daylong photo shoot on a boat near Capri, and there were all sorts of poses with all kinds of clothes — none with fur. During one setup, a stylist came up from behind and draped a stole around my shoulder. I didn't pay much attention to it, and when I noticed it was fur, I assumed it was fake fur, but did not ask, so it's my fault. I know it's not a great excuse, but I hope you and your members understand."

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Phillippe's a great dad: Witherspoon

FAMILY Reese Witherspoon has heaped praise on her ex-husband Ryan Phillippe because he's a great dad, imdb.com reports.

The actress split from Phillippe in 2007 but says the former couple remains civil for the sake of their children Ava and Deacon.

"When we're with our children, we're very good about checking ourselves. I'm teaching the children what we were taught growing up — a real set of rules, discipline and love."

METRO NEWS SERVICES

GETTY IMAGES PHOTOS

Osbourne's beau went traditional

MARRIAGE When model Luke Worrall proposed to his girlfriend and reality TV star Kelly Osbourne, he went all old school, orange.co.uk reports.

"Luke got down on one knee to propose to Kelly," said a source.

"I did everything properly," said Worrall, 18. "Before I asked Kelly to marry me I asked her dad, which was quite scary."

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Stalking suspect has disorder: aunt

PEOPLE Jennifer Garner's alleged stalker Steven Burky — who is reportedly in a psychiatric facility — has a mental disorder which doctors have tried to regulate with prescribed medication, according to his aunt.

The actress, who received a temporary restraining order against Burky, alleged he "has been stalking and harassing me," sending mail "containing delusional and paranoid thoughts."

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Paris and Benji split

BREAKUP Paris Hilton and Benji Madden's romance is over, People.com reports.

The pair split a few days ago after more than nine months of dating, a source close to the hotel heiress tells People.

"She is saddened by the breakup but they're just too different and they wanted different things in life," the source says. "He was loyal and sweet but it was time to take a break."

Reps for both Hilton and Madden could not be reached for comment.

On Nov. 15, Paris was photographed getting cosy with ex-boyfriend Stavros Niarchos at nightspot Mokai in Miami. The Hilton friend says the two were simply engaged in a close but friendly conversation.

Both Hilton, 27, and Madden, 29, have recently denied reports that they were unfaithful to each other.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Hathaway headed for heartbreak?

RELATIONSHIPS Anne Hathaway has friends worried she's headed for heartbreak with new flame and actor Adam Shulman, five months after splitting from Raffaello Follieri, femalefirst.co.uk reports.

But a source alleges Shulman could be the wrong man for her: "When he was at Brown (University), he went after all the heiresses. It's like Anne is addicted to losers."

METRO NEWS SERVICES

The Jolie-Pitts plan holiday globetrot

TRAVEL Actors Brad Pitt and Angelina Jolie are updating their passports for another Christmas abroad with their kids, imdb.com says.

Pitt revealed the family plans to spend the holidays in one of the kids' places of origin — Cambodia, Vietnam or Ethiopia.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Come Twilight You'll be Thirsty for More…

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Today Sunny 4 C / -6 C
Saturday Sunny 5 C / -5 C
Sunday Sunny 5 C / -5 C

BT BREAKFAST TELEVISION

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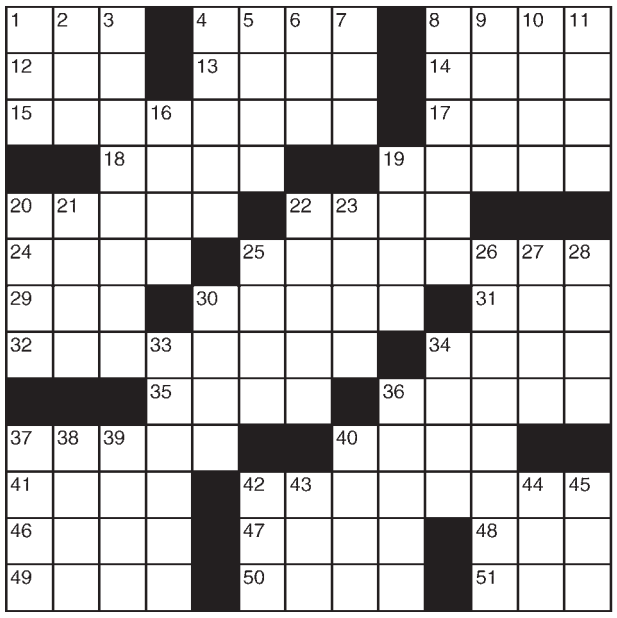
Take Five



Crossword across

1 Tavern
4 Anything but that
8 Lens holders
12 "— Got a Secret"
13 Jam ingredient?
14 Impression
15 Cotton or tobacco, e.g.
17 Lancaster foe
18 Do surveillance on
19 Trumpet part
20 Point of view
22 Approached home plate, maybe
24 Millinery
25 No. 1 recording
29 St.
30 Gap
31 Sapporo sash
32 Service stripe
34 Wield scissors
35 Family member
36 Surmise
37 Incorrect
40 Blue, in a sense
41 "Listen!"
42 Refuse receptacle
46 Never again?
47 Stir-fry cookware
48 Time of anticipation
49 Luminary
50 Do as you're told
51 Storm center

Crossword down

1 Pen name?
2 Actress Gardner
3 Paraphrases
4 Implied
5 Throw hard
6 Judge Lance
7 Bribe
8 Capital of Saudi Arabia
9 "American —"
10 Talk-show host Griffin
11 Benefit
16 — Christian Andersen
19 Work-bench attachment
20 Persian sovereign
21 Stromboli outflow
22 Agent 86
23 Deficiency
25 Bridge
26 Apiary critter
27 Sacred wading bird
28 Gratuities
30 Too confident
33 Yearn
34 Stuff like that
36 Overly talkative
37 "— on first?"
38 Carry on
39 Killer whale
40 Croupier's tool
42 Seesaw quorum
43 Plagiarize
44 Wall climber
45 Wedding announcement word

Sudoku

HOW TO PLAY: Digits 1 through 9 will appear once in each zone – one zone is an outlined 3x3 grid within the larger puzzle grid. There are nine zones in the puzzle. Do not enter a digit into a box if it already appears elsewhere in the same zone, row across or column down the entire puzzle.

	8		3			2	1	
9				1		3		7
3				2				
	9	8			6		4	
				4				
	5		1			6	2	
				6				1
8		3		7				4
	7	6			4		5	

PREVIOUS DAY'S CROSSWORD AND SUDOKU ANSWERS:

C	R	I	B		E	M	U		S	P	A	M		
A	I	D	E		R	A	N		C	A	V	E		
N	O	E	L		A	R	C		A	G	E	D		
S	T	A	L	L	S		T	A	M	E				
			J	O	E	S	I	X	P	A	C	K		
R	E	L	A	X		P	O	E		N	U	N		
O	M	A	R		D	E	N		O	T	T	O		
A	M	Y		P	E	A		O	N	S	E	T		
M	A	I	N	S	T	R	E	E	T					
		N	O	I	R		B	R	A	Z	E	N		
L	E	G	O		O	P	S		R	U	L	E		
O	P	U	S		I	R	E		I	L	K	S		
W	I	P	E		T	O	N		O	U	S	T		

3	4	2	9	7	6	8	5	1
7	8	9	5	1	3	6	2	4
1	6	5	8	2	4	3	9	7
4	1	8	2	3	5	9	7	6
2	9	6	1	8	7	4	3	5
5	7	3	4	6	9	1	8	2
6	5	7	3	9	1	2	4	8
8	3	4	6	5	2	7	1	9
9	2	1	7	4	8	5	6	3

Find today's answers + play more games at metronews.ca

SUDOKU SOLVE TIME:
Under 13 min .....Genius
13-17 min.....Scholar
17-21 min .....Smart
21-25 min .....Not bad
25+ min.....Keep practising

Metro Recipe of the Day

Tomatoes with Spinach Stuffing

INGREDIENTS:
1 1/2 tbsp (20 mL) olive oil
8 oz (250g) fresh spinach
4 large tomatoes, about 8 oz (225g) each
1 cup (250 mL) pine nuts
1 clove garlic
4 oz (125g) Italian-style premium cheese, such as Parmigiano-Reggiano
Salt and black pepper

METHOD:
1. Preheat oven to 425°F (220°C). Lightly oil a baking sheet. Remove stems from spinach.

2. Heat remaining oil in a saucepan, add spinach, cover, and cook for 2 minutes. Uncover, stir, and leave to cook for 1 minute. Drain off liquid, transfer spinach to a bowl, and set aside.

3. Rinse and dry tomatoes; slice off and reserve tops. Discard pith, seeds and juice from the centre of each.

4. Lightly toast pine nuts, then add to spinach. Peel and crush garlic and add to mixture, then grate over cheese, season to taste with salt and black pepper, and mix.

5. Press spinach mixture into tomatoes, piling it up, then replace tops, balancing them on the stuffing. Bake on the top shelf of the oven for 12–15 minutes. Serve hot.

PER SERVING
790 calories, 68 g total fat, 16 g saturated fat, 9 g carbohydrate, 5 g fibre, 36 g protein

SERVES 2

rd.ca
For nutritional information on this and other great recipes, go to **rd.ca** or check out **Key Ingredients in this month's Reader's Digest, on newsstands now!**

Horoscopes

AVATAR VENUS

ARIES
MARCH 21-APRIL 20
Confusion reigns in a family situation. A deep conversation will get at the truth. Someone's suggestion must be tried out.

TAURUS
APRIL 21-MAY 21
A sweetheart tries to cheat and fails. Expectations about love are challenged by reality. Refuse to deceive someone about a trifling matter.

GEMINI
MAY 22-JUNE 21
Don't waste time looking in the wrong direction. A stubborn man learns a lesson the hard way. Someone's grumpiness will lift your mood.

CANCER
JUNE 22-JULY 22
An opponent is almost finished complaining. Friends will disagree about forgetfulness. Reveal the facts to an evaluator.

LEO
JULY 23-AUG 23
A woman gets ditched by a phony. Someone changes plans for no reason. A man's warning comes true in an amusing way.

VIRGO
AUG 24-SEPT 22
Economic matters can cause turmoil. Someone being sneaky will be caught. You won't be able to help a leader.

LIBRA
SEPT 23-OCT 23
A dreamer seeks your friendship. Nothing is as bad as it seems. A madcap invention is taken seriously.

SCORPIO
OCT 24-NOV 22
A poverty-stricken person gets drawn into a dispute. Timely action outwits a defensive man. Listen closely to an important message.

SAGITTARIUS
NOV 23-DEC 21
Refuse to take control in a complicated situation. A hot-blooded man is discussed by those who care. Someone's love affair gets serious.

CAPRICORN
DEC 22-JAN 20
A fatalist's eagerness is of great concern. There's nothing to be done right now. A trusted friend makes you wonder.

AQUARIUS
JAN 21-FEB 18
You'll risk being offensive with your frankness. Don't forget to check your messages. Prepare to make a quick getaway.

PISCES
FEB 19-MARCH 20
Your luck will improve in matters of love. Teach an elder about reality. A shake-up creates a mystery.

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